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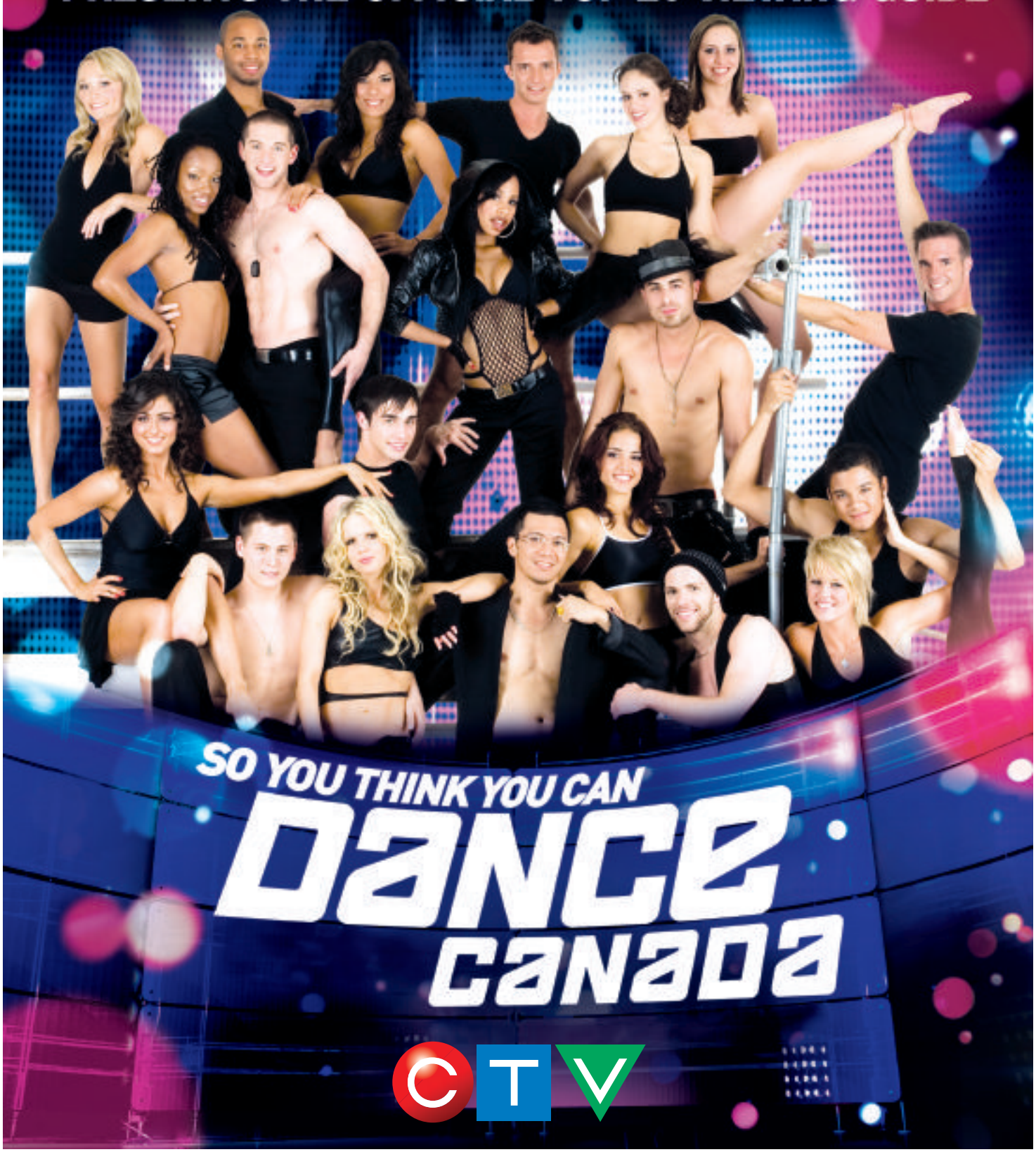

LEAH MILLER
HOST

From host of *MuchOnDemand* to the new host of ***So You Think You Can Dance Canada***, Miller has come a long way from the audition that landed her a job with Canada's flagship music station, MuchMusic. As a three-time host of the *MuchMusic Video Awards* and co-host of *MuchOnDemand*, Miller has interviewed some of the hottest stars and musical acts around, including Coldplay, Halle Berry, Kanye West, Rhianna and Matthew McConaughey. A music and dance aficionado, Miller tapped into the dance world at a young age. Miller danced competitively until the age of 16, an experience that gives her first-hand knowledge of the hard work and dedication it takes to become a competitive dancer.

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World Pg 8

U.S. rivals spar over economy, taxes at debate

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Entertainment

Berry sexiest woman alive: Esquire
Pg 24

Pedophile suspect in Thai court

BANGKOK A Maple Ridge man charged with abusing a nine-year-old boy in Thailand made his first court appearance yesterday in Bangkok.

Christopher Paul Neil, 32, was arrested there in 2007 after an international manhunt was mobilized to find the person behind hundreds of photos of a man abusing boys and teens that appeared on the Internet, CBC News Online reports.

Christopher Paul Neil

The suspect's face was digitally swirled in the photographs but they were subsequently unscrambled by Interpol.

In May, the former B.C. teacher pleaded guilty to abusing a 13-year-old boy and was sentenced to more than three years in jail.

The boy in the current trial alleges Neil paid him $15 to $30 to perform oral sex in 2003. Neil pleaded not guilty.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Seven-year-old Jaxson Amyotte, right, tussles with best friend Jonathon Barnes at the Oak Street Blood Clinic in Vancouver yesterday where he thanked blood donors for the hundreds of transfusions that helped save his life.

Donors give gift of life

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

By the time most kids his age started elementary school, Jaxson Amyotte had survived three cases of leukemia, hundreds of blood transfusions and undergone a bone marrow transplant.

Yesterday, the seven-year-old handed out handmade cards at the Oak Street blood donor clinic to thank donors for their gift of blood and platelets, which helped save his life.

"There's absolutely no doubt in my mind that Jaxson would not be here today if not for the countless transfusions of red blood cells and platelets he received during his treatments," said his mother, Jill Amyotte.

"I really am speechless. Those (donors) are angels."

Jaxson's visit kicked off a month-long blood drive at the Oak Street blood donor clinic.

'A great need...'

- For more information on how you can donate go to blood.ca.
- Jaxson Amyotte found a bone marrow donor through OneMatch Stem Cell And Marrow Network.

Throughout the month, B.C. patients will need blood from more than 12,000 donors.

Amyotte added that donating isn't just for cancer patients, but for accident victims and new mothers.

"There's a great need all the time, and … the people who do come out here maybe don't understand that they really are saving lives," she said, adding that she hadn't thought of giving blood until Jaxson became sick.

"You never know who's going to need it. It's something life saving we can do that doesn't cost us anything."

Sale of bonds set for today: Flaherty

ECONOMY Canada Savings Bonds that were supposed to be available for investors on Monday should instead go on sale today, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said yesterday.

"There's been some fluctuation in market rates as you know recently, so we wanted to make sure that the rate set for Canada Savings Bonds would be a reasonable rate that would make them attractive," Flaherty said.

Yesterday, The Toronto Stock Exchange dropped nearly four per cent to end below the key 10,000 level for the first time in three years as fears that the credit crisis could balloon to a global recession prompted broad selling.

Canada Savings Bonds, which have been sold to retail investors since 1946, are fully backed by the federal government and can be cashed in at any time.

REUTERS

Election 2008 pg 7

- Dion in Vancouver
- Heard on the Street

Canada pg 6

Harper unveils Tory platform

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New England Fly & Drive FROM **$549**
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Phoenix 4-Star FROM **$589**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 4 nights 4-star accom just minutes from Old Town Scottsdale. **ADD** Valley of the Sun tour from $55.

California Fly & Drive FROM **$599**
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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom over Christmas.

London 7 Nights FROM **$1359**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 3.5-star central accom with breakfast daily over Christmas.

Puerto Plata 4-Star FROM **$1369**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom over Christmas.

Huatulco 4.5-Star FROM **$1499**
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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom. **UPGRADE** to 4.5-star accom from $9 per night.

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B.C. spreads employee search to Manila
The provincial government reached halfway across the world yesterday to the Philippines, looking for skilled workers in its first-ever job fair in Metro Manila. Qualified workers get expedited processing of their applications for work permits and permanent residence. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

In Bourdon's honour

The Vancouver Canucks will be donating the proceeds from the Canucks for Kids Fund 50/50 draw on opening night this Thursday in Luc Bourdon's name to a B.C. children's charity. The Canucks defenceman, left, died in a motorcycle accident in May. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Burnaby oil project fuelled up and ready

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

You use it to cook food that fuels your body, but now you can use it to fuel your car.

Yesterday, the city of Burnaby launched a year-long pilot project to collect used cooking oil from residents and restaurants and convert it into biofuel.

Michael Perrier, president and CEO of Next Energy Systems, which is a partner in the initiative, said the program is "desperately needed," and will help lower emissions.

"Every municipality in Canada will be looking at the success of this project," he said, adding biodiesel burns in almost the same way as petroleum diesel.

A designated container will be available at the Still Creek Recycling depot, which will accept deposits of any non-hydrogenated oil, such as canola oil, corn oil, peanut oil and olive oil.

Student's family seeks justice

MONICA MARTINEZ
for Metro Vancouver

Six years after the death of 21-year-old Chinese foreign student Amanda Zhao, her parents returned to Vancouver yesterday where they made a tearful plea for Canada to help bring her accused killer to justice.

Baoying Yang and Zisheng Zhao will meet with RCMP Chief Superintendent Richard Bent tomorrow and Foreign Affairs Minister David Emerson on Friday, as part of their visit arranged by the B.C. NDP.

"We hope the result of the meetings will bring justice to our daughter's case," Zhao said through an interpreter. "I want to see the accused brought to justice within my lifetime."

Amanda's body was found in a suitcase around Stave Lake near Chilliwack on October 2002.

Her boyfriend, Ang Li, also a student from China, was accused of the murder by his cousin, Zhan Han. Han admitted in court he helped Li dispose of Amanda's body. He was later released due to lack of evidence.

Li, who had moved to China, was questioned by Chinese police and released.

The parents blame Canadian officials for not releasing evidence to Chinese officials.

"The provincial and federal governments lay responsibility on each other. That is why there has not been progress," Zhao said.

MONICA MARTINEZ / METRO VANCOUVER

The parents of murdered Chinese foreign student Amanda Zhao, Baoying Yang and Zisheng Zhao, ask the Canadian government for help in Vancouver yesterday.

memorial

- A memorial service to commemorate the sixth anniversary of Amanda's murder will be held at the Vancouver Chinese Cultural Centre tomorrow.

News in brief

BUST A alleged Surrey drug dealer arrested in August with 42 baggies of marijuana was charged yesterday with drug trafficking. Robin Edward Douglas, 48, has a history with police in B.C. and Alberta dating back to 1978.

HEALTH Surgical wait times in Canada are down one week compared to last year, but Canadians are still waiting 121 days or more for necessary medical treatment, according to the Vancouver-based Fraser Institute. British Columbians wait 17 weeks for treatment, the second-shortest in the country after Ontario.

ELECTION Voters looking for information on how leaders of the Liberal, NDP and Bloc Québécois parties are weighing in on interests of First Nations in B.C. can visit www.fns.bc.ca.

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Giller nominees headline festival

Three nominees shortlisted for the $50,000 Giller Prize will be attending the Vancouver International Writers & Readers Festival set for Oct. 21-26. Rawi Hage, Joseph Boyden and Mary Swan will be at the six-day festival, which will play host to 100 international writers and thousands of readers on Granville Island. METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

SKI PASS A new Tri-Area Pass will give skiers access to Whistler's three Nordic ski areas — Lost Lake, Whistler Olympic/Paralympic Park and Callaghan Country. Early bird passes start at $325 for adults and will be on sale until Dec. 5.

BENAVIDES Ecstasy was being consumed at the party Carla Benavides attended the night before she was found dead, CTV News reports. Police responded to a drug overdose call of a victim who was at the same party. The victim survived. Benavides, 16, was found Saturday morning after being out late.

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JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Hundreds of paramedics joined in a noon rally outside Canada Place in Vancouver yesterday.

Rally to 'end the bleeding'

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

B.C.'s paramedics called for a hefty wage increase and better working conditions as they kicked off a campaign yesterday in Vancouver to 'end the bleeding' for front-line health-care workers.

Clad in green high-vis jackets, more than 300 paramedics waved placards and chanted during a noon rally outside Premier Gordon Campbell's cabinet office at Canada Place.

John Strohmaier, president of CUPE Local 873, said paramedics have had wages frozen for three years.

"There are so many calls coming in and not enough resources to do it," Strohmaier said.

One paramedic at the rally yesterday said he worked a 12-hour shift on Monday and took only one 15-minute break, grabbing a quick bite to eat as he waited at the hospital with a patient.

Other paramedics said health officials closed an ambulance station at Seventh Avenue and Columbia Street because of mould. The station's paramedics have been working out of a hotel.

Strohmaier said one paramedic station on the North Shore is an "old crack house" where the ambulance is parked under a tent. In Port Moody, he added, paramedics work out of an ATCO trailer.

expiration date

- The collective agreement expires in March, paramedics are expected to begin negotiating a new agreement in December.

Study links anti-inflammatory drugs to reduced breast cancer rates

HEALTH Women taking anti-inflammatory drugs like Aspirin and Advil showed a 12 per cent relative risk reduction in breast cancer compared to non-users, according to a recent University of B.C. study.

Separate analysis for Aspirin showed a 13 per cent risk reduction, while Advil users showed a 21 per cent reduction.

The study, penned by UBC researchers, Vancouver Coastal Health and the University of Santiago de Compostela, was the largest of its kind, gathering data from 38 studies that looked at more than 2.7 million women.

Previous studies done on the topic have in turn supported and failed to support the correlation between taking anti-inflammatory drugs and breast cancer risk.

MARIA COOTAUCO/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

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Hells Angel gets 11 years

An Ontario court sentenced a Hells Angels biker to 11 years in prison yesterday, after he was found guilty under what prosecutors call the "boss law" for directing others to commit crimes for the benefit of a criminal organization. A prosecutor said he believes it is the first sentence ever levied under the law. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada

Tanning ban for minors?

Ontario Health Minister David Caplan said yesterday that the province will consider banning the use of tanning beds by minors. The announcement came after a report by the Canadian Cancer Society saying artificial tanning facilities in Toronto are not following Health Canada's voluntary safety guidelines. METRO NEWS SERVICES

New test can't be cheated: Psychologists

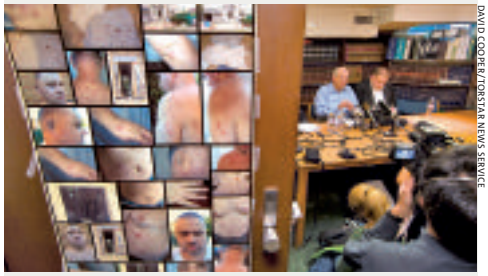
SCIENCE University of Toronto psychologists say they've developed a personality test that will reveal your true colours, even if you lie to it.

Researchers say the rapid-fire computer quiz will allow companies to confidently hire the most productive employees based on traits such as emotional stability.

A study on the new test was published in Journal of Research in Personality.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto $9M lawsuit



DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

George Lochner, seen here with lawyer Clayton Ruby and pictures of his injuries on the door, is suing Toronto police for $9 million in damages. Lochner, who suffers from cerebral palsy, claims officers used excessive force when they barged into his bedroom Aug. 11 and shocked him with a Taser.

News in brief

CHARGES The Edmonton man who faces numerous charges in relation to the abduction of a seven-year-old girl on Sunday is now charged in a sexual assault and abduction of a 10-year-old girl alleged to have taken place two days earlier, CBC News Online reports. Danial Todd Gratton, 44, is charged with sexual assault, sexual interference, uttering death threats, kidnapping and abduction involving the 10-year-old.

SENTENCE A Hells Angels associate has been given six years in prison after police made what is described as Canada's largest seizure of the date rape drug GHB from his Toronto garage.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tory plan 'realistic': PM

Conservatives unveil platform amidst economic turmoil

Election 2008

The Conservative election platform is a "realistic plan of action" for Canada's economy, Stephen Harper says.

Harper yesterday released the platform, a summary of most of the party's pledges announced so far in the election campaign, before giving a speech to the Canadian Club.

Harper called the platform modest and affordable, in contrast to the plans of his opponents, which he said are "written for an economic fantasy land; a place where money grows on trees, debts don't have to be paid down, and taxes are good for the economy."

"A Conservative government will ... keep our spending within our means. It is that simple."
Stephen Harper

Harper's plan carries a four-year cumulative price tag of $8.67 billion, and breaks down into about $6.5 billion in tax reduction measures, and about $2.1 billion in new spending over four years.

New items in the platform include more help for the troubled manufacturing sector. The Conservatives would provide $200 million over four years for the aerospace industry and $200 million over four years for the automotive industry, both in repayable assistance. Harper also pledged another $345 million in reductions in tariffs on imported machinery and equipment to help support capital investment by ailing companies.

"A Conservative government will not be raising taxes," Harper said. "We will not impose a carbon tax. We will not cancel planned tax reductions for business. We will keep our spending within our means. It is that simple."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Watch Layton and Dion take aim at the Tory platform at metronews.ca/canada

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Numbers down in advance voting
According to preliminary figures from Elections Canada, 1,459,253 electors voted at the advance polls last Friday, Saturday and Monday. This is a decrease from the 1,561,039 electors who voted in advance in the 2006 election. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Election 2008

News in brief

DIRTY THIRTIES NDP Leader Jack Layton has raised the spectre of the Great Depression to emphasize the serious economic situation facing Canada. "The economy is in a very difficult time right now by virtually every measure," Layton said yesterday in Vancouver. "Mr. Harper's response to the crisis in the banking system is to say that everything is fine, nothing needs to change, and there are no problems. R.B. Bennett couldn't have said it better himself in 1930." Bennett was Canada's Conservative prime minister from 1930-35, during the worst of the so-called Dirty Thirties.

COPYCAT In the latest twist in the plagiarism wars, the Conservatives say Stéphane Dion lifted parts of a speech he gave at the UN conference on climate change in Montreal in 2005. In an address on the Arctic, Dion quoted passages from a report on the effects of global warming conducted under the auspices of the Arctic Council.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

6 days remain until the 2008 Canadian federal election

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion campaigns with Justin Trudeau, left, at Science World in Vancouver yesterday morning.

Dion targets economy

Stephen Harper is failing to protect Canadians from the country's growing economic woes, Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion charged yesterday during a stop in Vancouver.

Harper was in Toronto yesterday, unveiling the Conservative platform.

Dion, speaking at a Liberal rally at Science World, said Canada's productivity rate has declined for nine months in row — something that hasn't happened since 1991, under Conservative prime minister Brian Mulroney.

"Conservatives do nothing to prepare a country because they don't believe in the role of the government to help the people and to help the market economy," Dion said.

Pierre Trudeau's son, Justin, a Liberal candidate in the Montreal riding of Papineau, campaigned with Dion in Vancouver yesterday to bolster the party's chances in key urban ridings.

To help weather the pending storm, the Liberals would consider raising the $100,000 insurance limit on bank deposits, Dion said.
METRO VANCOUVER

Heard on the Street: Has the election campaign made you change your mind on which party you will vote for?

Linda Wang
age 26,
Vancouver

A: The Conservative campaign painting (Liberal Leader Stéphane) Dion in a poor light was effective. It made him seem even less capable as a leader. I won't vote Liberal because of him.

Andrew Francis
age 23,
Vancouver

A: I've been paying more attention to the American election. But when you do see negative ads, the person doing them is who you see negatively. It works against the party.

Paulina Gostomski
age 20,
Vancouver

A: The campaigning hasn't influenced me. I've always voted NDP. I think they care more about working class people than the Liberals or Conservatives.

metro life panel

Metro Life Panel

Answers from the Metro Life Panel, based on 507 respondents.

Yes: 125 – 24.7%

No: 382 – 75.3%

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Nature inspires new products in 'biomimic' study

The Alpine edelweiss flower may hold clues to making better sunscreen, while oyster shells could give hints about storing greenhouse gases in an emerging industrial revolution that mimics nature, said Achim Steiner, head of the UN Environment Program, said yesterday in giving findings of a UNEP "biomimicry" project identifying 100 new ideas from nature. REUTERS

World/Business

McCain, Obama duel over taxes, economy

Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama battled over taxes and the best way to help struggling American workers last night during a sometimes tense presidential debate that highlighted a wide gap in their economic approaches.

JIM YOUNG/REUTERS

Democratic presidential nominee Senator Barack Obama and Republican nominee Senator John McCain smile after their debate last night at Belmont University in Nashville.

With Americans reeling under what Obama called the worst crisis since the Great Depression, the rivals in the Nov. 4 presidential election differed frequently and showed occasional flashes of the rancor that marked their recent rhetoric on the campaign trail.

"Americans are angry, they're upset and they're a little fearful," McCain said in the second of three presidential debates, held in Nashville. "We don't have trust and confidence in our institutions."

The 72-year-old Arizona senator proposed a program that would buy mortgages from homeowners facing financial problems and replace those mortgages with new, fixed-rate mortgages.

Obama said McCain and Republicans had supported the deregulation of the financial industry that led to the crisis. He said middle-class workers, not just Wall Street, needed a rescue package that would include tax cuts.

"We are in the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, and a lot of you, I think, are worried about your jobs, your pensions, your retirement accounts," he said.

The debate broke little new ground and featured familiar themes for both candidates. McCain portrayed the 47-year-old Illinois senator as an eager supporter of higher taxes who was unwilling to buck his own party, but Obama said McCain's policies would help the wealthy and strand workers at the bottom of the economic ladder. REUTERS

The winner is...?

- Two quick polls taken immediately after the debate, by CBS News and CNN, both judged Obama the winner.

Empowering African women

ALI ZAFAR
for Metro Canada

Ritha Abemba walked over dead bodies and witnessed people getting shot at the age of seven as she and her family escaped the conflict-ridden Democratic Republic of Congo for the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya.

"When I think about how we fled out, I can't avoid crying with so much bitterness," Abemba said.

But this past September, the 20-year-old enrolled into her first semester at the University of Winnipeg after being sponsored by the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) — a non-governmental organization that links Canadian universities and colleges with refugees worldwide.

Abemba is the 1000th student the WUSC has brought over to study in Canada.

"Educating women is the key to development in Africa," said Jacob Mapemba, the WUSC's Malawi country director.

The NGO has introduced gender-sensitive curriculum in sub-Saharan African classrooms, educating girls as a way of speeding up development in the region.

Mapemba says the gender-sensitive curriculum in primary and secondary schools entails empowering young girls by illustrating them in a positive light.

"In the old curriculum, boys would be seen as being successful, being powerful and girls would always be seen as lagging behind boys," Mapemba said.

The WUSC has been around for six decades and currently works with 70 Canadian campuses and in 17 countries worldwide, including Malawi, a southeastern African nation.

Like many other countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Malawi's economy runs on agriculture and employs 75 per cent women. Mapemba says for these agriculture-based economies to become more productive, educating women is key so they're familiar with the latest technologies used in growing and harvesting crops.

"If women were well educated here, African nations wouldn't remain at the bottom of the economic ladder," says Joyce Phekani, of the Malawi-based Centre for Alternatives for Victimized Women and Children.

ALI ZAFAR/FOR METRO CANADA

Girls in African nations like Malawi can benefit from a gender-sensitive curriculum — something that experts say can help speed up development across the continent.

METRO WORLD
Exclusive

Ali Zafar is a Canadian journalist currently based in Malawi, where he works the Nation newspaper through Journalists For Human Rights.

News in brief

SARS Taiwan legislators wearing surgical masks and displaying skull-and-crossbones banners took over parliament's floor yesterday after the island's security chief accused China of starting the global SARS epidemic six years ago as part of a biological warfare campaign. Taiwan National Security Bureau Director-General Tsai Chao-ming told a legislative committee on Monday that sources in China suspected biological warfare, but that conclusive evidence had not surfaced.

PROTEST Thailand's military deployed troops on the streets of Bangkok yesterday to keep order after a day of battles between police and anti-government protesters in which two people died and more than 380 were injured, 48 seriously. One man was killed by a car bomb near parliament, police said, where protesters waging a four-month campaign to unseat the government battled riot police in clouds of teargas. REUTERS

Business

Global bailouts continue

The U.S. Federal Reserve stepped forward as a last-resort commercial lender and signalled a readiness to cut interest rates as governments around the world scrambled to stem the growing credit crisis.

The Fed created a new commercial paper facility that would buy short-term, highly rated corporate debt, in a program that falls outside the $700-billion US rescue plan.

Russia negotiated an emergency bailout for Iceland and unveiled an aid package for its own banks, Australia slashed interest rates by one point to six per cent, and today, Britain will announce a package that includes public funds for banks. REUTERS

In Toronto...

The S&P/TSX composite index dropped nearly four per cent yesterday, ending down 400.88 points, or 3.9 per cent, at 9,829.55. It dropped for the fifth straight day to close below 10,000 for the first time since July 2005.

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'World's ultimate buskers' make it big for charity

The Salvation Army has teamed up with record label Universal to raise one million pounds for the charity. Universal will make an undisclosed donation and will release an album recorded by the Army's famous uniformed brass band on Nov. 24. REUTERS

Pump prices falling, hit $1 in Ottawa

Pump prices are on their way down — especially in Ontario, where some stations are posting prices below $1 per litre.

The average price across Canada yesterday was about $1.14 per litre, down nearly three cents from Monday, according to the price-tracking website GasBuddy.com.

Ontario has by far the cheapest prices, with Ottawa-area stations selling gas for around 99 cents per litre and Hamilton and Toronto averaging around $1.05.

The oil-industry hub of Alberta normally sees the cheapest prices in the country because the product does not need to travel far to get to market.

But in Calgary and Edmonton yesterday, drivers were paying more than 10 cents more per litre than their Ontario counterparts.

GasBuddy's Jason Toews says fierce competition is what's driving the steep price drop in Ontario — Canada's most populous province — and that Alberta should soon follow suit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Consumers 'no better off' with rate cut

ECONOMY A phalanx of central banks appear poised to trigger a round of deep interest rate cuts in a frantic effort to jump-start the global economy, as policymakers near the bottom of their war chest to combat the financial crisis.

After pouring billions into the world's financial system, central banks are still scrambling to contain the crisis. Many are now signalling their willingness to chop interest rates as part of a last-ditch effort to stave off a global recession.

Economists, however, are already suggesting that rate cuts have lost their "oomph" and will likely do little to prevent the credit market contagion from infecting the global economy.

The Bank of Canada's overnight rate is currently three per cent. Some economists suggest a reduction of 25 to 50 basis points could be in the works later this month. Others, like Merrill Lynch economist David Wolf, are betting that key rate could fall by as much as a full percentage point by year's end.

"If the BoC (Bank of Canada) agrees it needs to get to three per cent eventually ... then why wait?" Wolf wrote in a report yesterday.

The Bank of Canada's overnight rate influences the prime lending rates of the chartered banks, which in turn direct borrowing costs on a slew of loan, line of credit and mortgage products. But with the credit crisis showing no signs of abating, some economists, such as TD economist Don Drummond, said it "wouldn't surprise me at all" if the "big six" didn't match a widely expected cut by the Bank of Canada on Oct. 21.

Bank of Montreal economist Michael Gregory noted consumer lending rates have already risen, meaning any future cut by Bank of Canada will probably leave consumers "no better off." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Business in brief

AUTOS Toyota Motor Corp. annual profits will likely slide 40 per cent to $12.8 billion US, due to weak sales in North America and slower growth in China, Japanese media reports. One analyst said the auto industry will recover in the next six months as fuel and raw material prices drop.

U.S. TREASURY U.S. presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain both mentioned billionaire investor Warren Buffett as a possible pick for Treasury secretary in a debate yesterday. McCain also suggested former EBay CEO Meg Whitman for the post, which is held by Henry Paulson.

ELECTRIC CARS China could adopt golf cart-like electric vehicles and electric cars faster than elsewhere because of their size, affordability, and comparative lack of reliance on gas for transport, the head of battery maker Johnson Controls said at an environmental summit yesterday.

LAWSUIT Texas billionaire and energy tycoon T. Boone Pickens has sued Lehman Brothers for $59.9 million US, claiming the bankrupt investment bank breached its contract by failing to repay $42 million US in collateral posted by Pickens. Bank officials decline to comment. REUTERS

Enbridge pans fears over credit, export bans

OIL The head of Enbridge Inc. said yesterday that a campaign pledge by the Conservative government to halt exports of bitumen to countries with lax emission rules is no threat to its planned $4.2-billion pipeline to the Pacific Coast.

"We're still viewed as an attractive borrower. So we hope over time ... to move the balance of Lehman over to other banks." Richard Bird, CFO

Chief executive Pat Daniel, in Toronto for a meeting with investors, said the campaign pledge, announced by Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Oct. 14, had blindsided the company, which is the biggest shipper of bitumen, a tar-like form of oil, from the Alberta oilsands.

But Daniel said the pledge was unlikely to affect the firm's planned Northern Gateway pipeline, which will carry oil from the oil sands to a tanker port at Kitimat, B.C. He also noted it will take some time to interpret exactly what Harper meant in his promise.

His remarks to Reuters came as Enbridge also said it was having few problems replacing bankrupt U.S. investment bank Lehman Brothers as part of its group of lenders.

Richard Bird, Enbridge's chief financial officer, said the firm still expects to be able to issue debt at what it considers to be a reasonable spread, despite the credit crunch.

Bird said Enbridge has had little difficulty drawing on its credit facilities, though Lehman Brothers had 0.5 per cent of a facility sponsored by a total of 24 banks. He said some of Lehman's commitment had been taken up by a Japanese bank in the group.

"We're still viewed as an attractive borrower," Bird said. "So we hope over time ... to move the balance of Lehman over to other banks."

Bird also said that, aside from Lehman, which collapsed last month, Enbridge was watching "one or two" banks that may also be at risk from the credit crisis. REUTERS

Little Mosque on the Prairie

Amaar Turns His Back on Love.

Hiding his feelings for Rayyan, Amaar returns home to his parents in Toronto. Find out if Amaar will give in to his parents' meddling ways, or if he'll put his foot down once and for all.

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Stars place Zubov on IR

The Dallas Stars placed defenceman Sergei Zubov on the injured reserve list yesterday. The 38-year-old Zubov is out indefinitely while recovering from hip surgery. He registered four goals and 31 assists to go along with a plus-six rating last season. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Yankees' Rivera has surgery

New York Yankees star closer Mariano Rivera, left, underwent surgery on his sore right shoulder yesterday and is expected to resume throwing in three months, a month before spring training is set to begin. The 38-year-old pitched through discomfort throughout the 2008 campaign but was still dominant, converting 39-of-40 save opportunities and compiling a 6-5 record with a 1.40 earned run average. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Brennan says no to Team Canada

SOCCER Toronto FC captain Jim Brennan won't likely be playing for the Canadian National Team anytime soon, CBC Sports Online is reporting.

At least not as long as current coach Dale Mitchell is in charge of things.

Brennan

Brennan, has been a stalwart on the national team since 1999, but blames his frustration with Mitchell and the Canadian Soccer Association for walking away. Brennan said he would consider returning to the national side if Mitchell was replaced.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

NHL is doing fine Milt

YorkReport

Marty York
marty.york@metronews.ca

Let's put a lid on all the gloom and doom about the NHL, shall we?

Frankly, it's become tiring to read and hear irresponsible suggestions that the league, outside Canada, is in trouble and may be dying.

It's annoying that know-nothings such as CFLer Milt Stegall choose to publicly put down hockey as an illegitimate sport.

It's stupid, because here are the facts:

The NHL is healthy and it is thriving. It is four per cent ahead of last year in season-ticket renewals and new season-ticket sales.

It is on track to pass the 2.1-million mark in attendance in 2008-09. And it is likely to set its fifth consecutive season of record attendance.

So enough of this nonsense, ok?

• Contract negotiations between Marian Gaborik and the Minnesota Wild have hit an impasse and the club has begun to entertain trade offers for the 26-year-old superstar.

Among those expressing interest: The Vancouver Canucks, Ottawa Senators, Toronto Maple Leafs, Montreal Canadiens, Pittsburgh Penguins, New York Rangers and Los Angeles Kings.

Gaborik has one year left on his Wild deal but Minnesota general manager Doug Risebrough has made it clear that, because of potential distractions, he will trade the high-scoring forward soon if he can't re-sign him.

• The Philadelphia Phillies and Boston Red Sox are favoured to meet in the World Series this month, but I like both underdogs to win their league championship series, which begin this week.

Manny Ramirez, for all his alleged faults, has inspired the Los Angeles Dodgers to reach heights they couldn't have dreamed of reaching without him. They'll beat Philly in five.

And the Tampa Bay Rays were 10-8 against Boston in the regular season. There was a reason for that. They're the superior squad.

Hey, I picked the Rays to advance to the World Series after I saw them in Florida way back in spring training. I won't change my mind now. Rays in seven.

• But about those cowbells fans in Tampa Bay are ringing in their seats:

"Dumbest thing I've ever seen," Chicago White Sox pitcher Bobby Jenks said. "Annoying. Minor league."

• I can't remember when two Canadian position players have been as important to playoff teams as Boston's Jason Bay and the Dodgers' Russell Martin are now … Hearing Buck Martinez analyze the playoffs this week reminded me of just how terrific he was in the Blue Jays' broadcast booth. Wasn't a bad manager, either. What a raw deal he got from Jays GM J.P. Ricciardi … And what's this we're hearing about Ricciardi being approached about a contract buyout by the Jays' ownership?

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

World Series odds

• World Series odds from Canadian handicapper Randall The Handle: Boston Red Sox +185; Tampa Bay Rays +295; Philadelphia Phillies +325; Los Angeles Dodgers +345.

Earning the distinction of being the youngest Manager in his company's 80 year history, Gerald Chang's experience spans from being a Financial Analyst, to a Business Development Manager for a Beijing consulting company to his current position as Manager, Corporate Development with Sauder Moulding and Millwork. Gerald began the **CMA Program** in September 2007.

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NBA Trail Blazers crush Kings in pre-season game

STEVE DIPAOLA/REUTERS

Portland Trail Blazers forward Travis Outlaw has the ball knocked away by Sacramento Kings forward Sheldon Williams during their NBA pre-season game last night. The Trail Blazers won 110-81.

Dunleavy replaces Baylor as Clips GM

NBA The Los Angeles Clippers announced yesterday that head coach Mike Dunleavy is taking on the added role of general manager, replacing vice president of basketball operations, Elgin Baylor.

Dunleavy

There are conflicting reasons for Baylor's departure. Dunleavy told the Los Angeles Times that the team informed him Baylor was retiring, but Baylor told the newspaper there is a dispute with the team and on the advice of his attorney, he wouldn't discuss the move.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Formula 1 drops Montreal race

Politicians and business people are scrambling to save the Canadian Grand Prix, a celebrated tradition in this city and the country at large for more than 40 years, which has been dropped unceremoniously from the Formula One calendar for 2009.

In what appeared to come as a surprise even to the Montreal organizers of the huge event, the International Automobile Federation (FIA), the governing body of auto racing, yesterday issued a revised schedule for next year and Montreal was off the list. No reason was given.

The race has been Montreal's biggest tourist draw of the year, with more than 300,000 spectators producing as much as $100 million in revenue for the Montreal region.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SCOREBOARD

MLB

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
BEST OF SEVEN
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Tampa Bay vs. Boston
FRIDAY'S GAME
Boston at Tampa Bay, 5:37
SATURDAY'S GAME
Boston at Tampa Bay, 5:07
MONDAY, OCT. 13
Tampa Bay at Boston, 1:37
TUESDAY, OCT. 14
Tampa Bay at Boston, 5:07
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Philadelphia vs. L.A. Dodgers
TOMORROW'S GAME
L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, 5:15
FRIDAY'S GAME
L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, 1:35
SUNDAY'S GAME
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 5:22
MONDAY, OCT. 13
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 5:22

CFL

WEEK 16
FRIDAY'S GAMES
Toronto at Winnipeg, 4:30
Edmonton at B.C., 7:30
MONDAY'S GAMES
Hamilton at Montreal, 10
Saskatchewan at Calgary, 1:30

NFL

WEEK 6
SUNDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Atlanta, 10
Miami at Houston, 10
Detroit at Minnesota, 10
Oakland at New Orleans, 10
St. Louis at Washington, 10
Cincinnati at N.Y. Jets, 10
Baltimore at Indianapolis, 10
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 10
Jacksonville at Denver, 1:05
Green Bay at Seattle, 1:15
Dallas at Arizona, 1:15
Philadelphia at San Francisco, 1:15
New England at San Diego, 5:15
MONDAY'S GAME
N.Y. Giants at Cleveland, 5:30

SOCCER

GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER WHITECAPS MEN'S TEAM:
USL CHAMPIONSHIP
SUNDAY'S GAME
Puerto Rico at VANCOUVER, 4

Queen's Muslim students report racist incidents

According to the Queen's Journal, the campus newspaper at Queen's University, the school's Muslim Students Association office was burglarized Sept. 20 and up to $900 in donated funds was stolen. The following day, a poster was vandalized with racist slurs. Muslim students also reported incidents of sexual and racial harassment. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Tuition issues

A student editorial in the McGill Tribune protests Quebec policies on tuition stating that the rule of exempting French foreign students from paying foreign student fees, allowing them to pay the reduced Quebec rate, is discriminatory. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Forging building blocks of society

MARIA COOTAUCO
for Metro Canada

Nestled in the middle of the University of British Columbia's campus is a concrete building that gives birth to other buildings.

Inside, architects-in-the-making occupy two expansive studios lined on one side with large windows. Students huddle in front of computer screens as they turn ideas into living spaces.

For the past two years, Arash Atash has been putting in many hours to achieve his adolescent dream of becoming an architect.

"I always wanted to do something related to art," the 27-year-old said. "Creation was my passion."

Along the way, the Iran-born Master of Architecture student endured all-nighters and a limited social life.

It's called commitment, the main ingredient for success in the profession.

"You should love this major," Atash said.

It's one where even the challenges are embraced and regarded with reverence.

"You never know enough," Atash said. "You're 90 years old and you've been designing for, let's say, 65 years, and you're still exploring and learning."

MARIA COOTAUCO/FOR METRO CANADA

Arash Atash is a Master of Architecture student at UBC.

"I always wanted to do something related to art. Creation was my passion."
Arash Atash

It's seeing innovations and learning from them that keeps architecture interesting for Atash.

Recently, he and several classmates went on a road trip to Seattle to see the public library designed by Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas.

Although the initial reaction for the glass building was one of distaste, a couple of hours exploring the inside turned into appreciation.

"We all loved it," he said.

"It's very complex and complicated."

Kind of like architecture's place in today's world.

"The process of design today is not a straight line," Atash said. "I believe we're living in the era of no style … When we say modernism, we're talking about a certain period of history and time. But that period is finished."

For now, Atash is intent in designing progressively.

"I try not to follow the past," he said. "We should really push the envelope and bring better and newer architecture to people, which can improve the quality of life in all aspects and all scales."

the course

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Breaking in your start-up small business

Nine out of 10 businesses in Canada are small or mid-sized. Despite being the overwhelming majority, many owners are frustrated by a lack of information on how to get started and what business tools they need to succeed. Information can be confusing, hard to find, or even inaccurate. We have compiled a list of common myths about entrepreneurship and useful tips to help business owners save time and reduce frustration.

MYTH 1: If you don't know all the details about running your business, you shouldn't be in business.

Not true. Being an entrepreneur is all about having a great idea and making it happen. Planning is key, but you don't need to be an expert on Day One. If in doubt, look into training. Government organizations, small business groups and technology vendors offer many options.

MYTH 2: A small business won't benefit from technology investments.

Just the opposite! Technology enables small businesses to reach new customers and be more efficient. Today's technology — company websites, and portals like EBay Stores — open up new avenues to customers. In a recent survey, 90 per cent of small business owners said QuickBooks accounting software cuts the amount of time they spend managing their books, searching for business data, taking care of payroll, and other administrative tasks. Without the admin work, they can focus on running their business.

TIP: Get a plan! A good business plan shows two things: an idea and a shot at profit. Your plan should identify the purpose of your business; your primary competitors; your likely customers and how you plan to make a profit. NEWS CANADA

Advice

- Try Industry Canada's Strategis site (strategis.gc.ca) or the QuickBooks Small Business Community (quickbooksgroup.ca) for a range of free advice.

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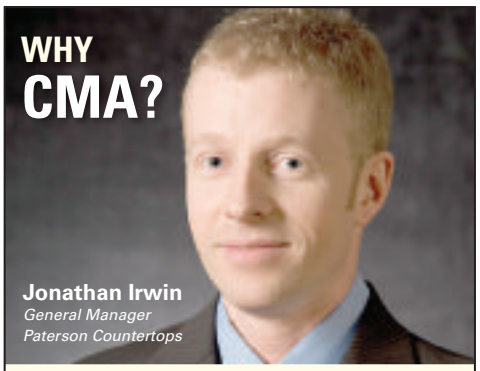

As General Manager at Paterson Countertops, a family owned company, Jon Irwin's responsibilities cover almost all aspects of the business. Since September 2007, Jon has been enrolled in the **CMA Program.**

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Sheraton Guildford Hotel, 15269 104th Avenue,
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PSE needs to be part of election debate: CPRN

The Canadian Policy Research Networks says that higher education has received "only limited attention" in federal election campaigning. Studies by the CPRN show the necessity of increased investment and better planning for PSE as a fundamental strategy for the country's economic policy. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Douglas College

Employees must be given time to vote

WorkplaceLaw

Daniel Lublin
dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com

Election 2008

There is a Federal election on Tuesday, Oct. 14th. On this day, every employee who is a Canadian citizen and who is at least 18 years of age is entitled to have three consecutive hours off from work in order to vote.

What does this mean for employers? The Canada Elections Act provides that most employers have the following obligations with respect to an employee's time to vote.

- Every employee who is eligible to vote is entitled to have three consecutive hours off from work in order to cast his or her vote. Therefore, if their hours of work do not allow for three consecutive hours, the employer must accommodate the employee by allowing him or her to leave work early or arrive late. If an employee is entitled to at least three hours off during provincial polling times, they are not entitled to a further three hours off from work.
- Employees cannot be penalized for taking off time off to vote. That is, their salary cannot be reduced and penalties can be imposed against employers for denying employees access to voting.
- Employers are allowed to choose when employees vote. If an employee's regular hours of work on polling day already allow that employee the chance to have three hours to vote between 9:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m., additional time off to vote isn't required. Alternatively, if an employee works from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m., some time off work must be given to allow for voting, but it doesn't necessarily have to be during the middle of the employee's normal working day. The hours allowed for absence to vote are "at the convenience of the employer." Therefore, in this example, if the employee were allowed to leave work at 6:30 p.m., he or she would still have at least three hours to vote, as most polling stations are open until 9:30 p.m.

If an employee works from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m., some time off work must be given to allow for voting, but it doesn't necessarily have to be during the middle of the employee's normal working day. The hours allowed ... are "at the convenience of the employer."

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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AT metronews.ca/sytycd

THE ROAD TO THE TOP 20

Selected from more than 2,500 aspiring dancers, the ***So You Think You Can Dance Canada*** Top 20 dancers are exceptionally dedicated, talented and passionate. Now it's up to you to decide who will be crowned Canada's Favourite Dancer.

The audition tour kicked off in Vancouver and the dancers showcased their contemporary flavour. From the Pacific to the Atlantic, the tour headed east but not even the steel grey skies or bone-chilling winds could dampen Halifax dancers' enthusiasm.

The audition tour travelled to Calgary next where the judges were blown away by the strong technique of prairie dancers. After Calgary, the auditions stopped in Montreal. With a well-established hip hop and contemporary communities, the dancers were in top form in La Belle Province!

The audition tour wrapped up in Toronto where thousands of dancers filled city sidewalks. With an eclectic turn out – from street dancers to studio dancers – Torontonians wowed the judges.

The top dancers from each city met at Finals Week – a fiercely competitive process where the dancers had to learn choreography, perform their own solos and stay up all night developing group routines.

After an incredibly intense week of dancing, the judges chose their Top 20 to kick off the inaugural season of ***So You Think You Can Dance Canada!*** Over the next few weeks, the Top 20 Dancers will compete for your votes.

Only you can decide who will become Canada's favourite dancer. Get ready to vote, Canada!

2008 BROADCAST SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 8	Top 20	Thursday, November 6	Results
Thursday, October 9	Results	Wednesday, November 12	Top 10
Wednesday, October 15	Top 18	Thursday, November 13	Results
Thursday, October 16	Results	Wednesday, November 19	Top 8
Wednesday, October 22	Top 16	Thursday, November 20	Results
Thursday, October 23	Results	Wednesday, November 26	Top 6
Wednesday, October 29	Top 14	Thursday, November 27	Results
Thursday, October 30	Results	Wednesday, December 3	Top 4
Wednesday, November 5	Top 12	Thursday, December 4	Finale

CTV

dance.CTV.ca

York prof defies class closure for Jewish holiday

York University professor David Noble defied the university's policy of cancelling classes for Jewish holidays by holding his history class on Wednesday, which was the second day classes were cancelled for Rosh Hashanah. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Office politicians running rampant

Federal politicians aren't the only ones campaigning this election season.

In a recent survey, more than half of employees interviewed said the level of office politics in their workplaces has increased compared to five years ago; just 12 percent of respondents reported a decline.

While most workers don't advocate jumping into the political fray, a majority agree that a little knowledge can be power:

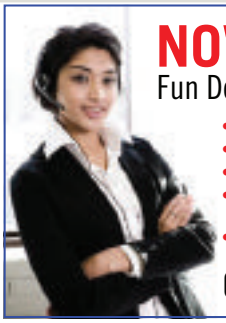
More than half (54 percent) say it's wise to be aware of political undercurrents in the office without becoming directly involved.

It's wise for employees to recognize office dynamics, according to Accountemps. The following are some common "political players" and tips for interacting with them:

Office politics can be very divisive, so be careful whom you align yourself with if you're caught up in the game.

- The Pundit. This person loves to talk office politics and rarely tires of speculating about what's really happening. While the Pundit may provide useful insights on occasion, it's best not to share too much information with this individual, as it could fuel the rumour mill.
- The Lobbyist. This person is a strong advocate for his or her projects and is adept at gaining buy-in for ideas. While some Lobbyists are effective at building cross-departmental support, others may be unreceptive to outside points of view. When interacting with this person, be aware of the agenda being pushed, and be willing to stand up for your ideas.
- The Covert Operator. The Covert Operator often uses manipulation rather than hard work to get ahead. While this type of person can be charming, keep your guard up when dealing with anyone who criticizes a co-worker or takes credit for other people's projects.
- The Activist. This professional likes to facilitate change within an organization and is quick to take on causes, even those that don't necessarily advance the company's big-picture goals. While the Activist can be a valuable advocate, carefully evaluate the merit of the issues when asked for support.
- The Adviser. This person often is closely aligned with a company's leadership and serves as their "eyes and ears." For example, the Adviser could be a senior aide or an executive assistant. Because the Adviser wields significant behind-the-scenes influence, develop a good rapport with him or her.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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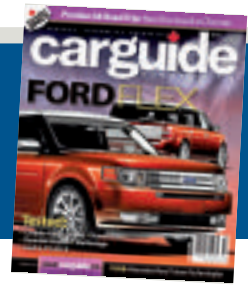

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Ford Flex packs punch

Stylish crossover a front-runner in its class

JOE KNYCHA
for Metro Canada

With a long list of innovations and style unique to its class, Ford's full-sized 2009 Flex crossover is bold and refreshing. At first glance it appears to be incongruous with rising gasoline prices. But gas-sipping microcars aren't ideal for everyone — especially those who regularly carry up to a half dozen passengers and their luggage or sports equipment.

With a long list of innovations and style unique to its class, Ford's full-sized 2009 Flex crossover is bold and refreshing.

Among the current crop of SUVs, pickup trucks and even crossover-utility vehicles, the Flex is an out-of-the-box front-runner.

Offered in Canada in two trim levels, it starts at $34,999 for the well-equipped front wheel-drive SEL, and runs to $42,999 for the all wheel-drive Limited.

Power is delivered via Ford's smooth 3.5-litre V6 Duratec engine linked to an equally smooth, six-speed automatic transmission that it shares with the Taurus X. It makes 262 hp at 6,250 rpm and 248 lb-ft of torque at 4,500 revs.

Ford projects fuel economy numbers of 12.6 L/100 km (city) and 8.4 L/100 km (hwy) for the front-wheel-drive Flex and 13.5 (city) and 9.5 (hwy) with AWD. Flex will be available next year with the turbocharged ecoBoost engine.

Inside, the Flex seats six (or seven, with the no-cost optional second row 60/40 folding bench seat) with ample space and comfort and upscale features and details. Thoughtful features include coat-and-grocery bag hooks and storage compartments throughout.

Class-leading technologies include SYNC, voice-activated navigation with reverse camera system, premium Sony sound system and 'surprise-and-delight' features like Ford's EasyFuel capless refueling nozzle and exclusive, compressor-driven refrigerated console.

Flex is built on the Taurus X platform, stretched five inches for greater middle-seat space. An all-new, Flex-specific rear suspension is designed for hauling and load bearing — it can comfortably pull up to 1,900 kg.

Driving dynamics inspire confidence in corners, with a steering feel that is linear and intuitive. Pushing the vehicle to its limit in corners results in mild understeer with ample early warning so that it retains its composure.

But it's the Flex's unique, stand-alone styling that will first get peoples' attention. Peter Horbury, executive director of design for the Americas, called the styling a "radical departure" for Ford.

"At first we were uncomfortable with the way Flex could polarize, but its ability to compel an opinion, good or bad, was fascinating," he says. "It inspired us forward with courage to create a breakthrough design."

Strong shoulders and prominent wheel arches plant the car firmly on the road and set it over the standard 18-inch or available 19-in polished aluminum wheels. Brakes are four-wheel discs with ABS.

Darkened 'privacy glass' and black pillar cladding add intrigue. The roof, available in silver or white, heightens the effect.

Despite the darkened glass greenhouse, the interior is bright and airy with first rate fit and finish throughout. An available 'Vista' roof lightens and brightens the interior even more, and allows for individual brightness adjustment over the second- and third-row passenger positions. The forward panel opens to let in fresh air.

The SEL's standard equipment list is lengthy, with highlights including auto dual beam headlamps, capless fuelling, power-remote folding heated side mirrors, remote keyless entry, power windows, doors and locks, two-speed rear windshield wiper, multifunction centre console, A/C, full instrumentation, message centre with trip computer, four, 12-volt powerpoints, three rows of seats and safety/security features including electronic traction- and stability control front and side impact air bags with rollover sensor seat belt pretensioners and tire pressure monitoring.

The top line Limited adds chromed mirrors with puddle lamps, LED taillights, 19-inch all-season polished aluminum wheels and tires, a 10-speaker AM/FM stereo with six-disc in-dash changer and MP3 and Sirius Satellite Radio, hands-free Sync media system, power rear liftgate, leather interior and steering wheel integrated audio and speed controls.

2009 Ford Flex

Type: Full-size crossover-utility vehicle, FWD
Price: $34,999
Engine: 3.5L DOHC V6
HP: 262 @ 6,250

Highlights

- Seats seven
- Easy entry and exit for passengers
- Quiet ride

Chrysler's GEM is launching a new model called the Peapod, an electric vehicle.

Chrysler turns on green power

Clean and green transportation gets a new look and feel as Global Electric Motorcars (GEM) introduces the next generation of clean, gas-free and emission-free, battery electric vehicles.

Owned by Chrysler, the vehicle's innovative, groundbreaking design with its striking pod-like shape and sleek lines reflects the environmentally friendly nature that has been the hallmark of GEM since its founding 10 years ago.

The user-friendly mood of the vehicle, named the GEM Peapod, is enhanced with the newly designed center console that will offer iPod integration as well as hands free operation of the customer's iPhone.

Other innovations include ergonomic, supportive, mesh seating which enables air circulation for comfort and use of eco-friendly recycled and recyclable materials.

GEM will also get a new name, GreenEcoMobility, signifying the company's goal to redefine environmentally-friendly vehicles.

In addition to the 2009 GEM Peapod neighbourhood electric vehicle, GEM has plans to market a new light-duty, battery electric commercial truck and a larger city electric vehicle, with more range and performance.

These vehicles are scheduled for production within the next year.

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*On all 2009 models. Compared to MSRP for 2008, same model. **MSRP for a 2009 Murano 3.5 S AWD (L6RG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ 2009 Altima Coupe 2.5 S (T2RG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Xterra S 4x4 (8CLG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Armada LE-V8 4x4 (7CTG79 AA00), automatic transmission/ 2009 Altima Hybrid 2.5 S (T4HG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ 2009 Rogue 2.5 S FWD (W6RG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ 2009 Versa Hatchback 1.8 S (B5LG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Frontier King Cab XE 4x2 (2KLG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Maxima 3.5 SV (U4SG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ 2009 Titan King Cab XE 4x2 (1KAG79 AA00), automatic transmission / 2009 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Pathfinder S 4x4 (5CRG79 AA00), automatic transmission. †$47,498 MSRP for a 2009 Murano LE AWD (L6SG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ $29,798 MSRP for a 2009 Altima Coupe 3.5 SE (T2SG59 AA00), manual transmission/$36,398 MSRP for a 2009 Xterra SE (8CSG79 AA00), automatic transmission/ $30,698 MSRP for a 2009 Rogue SL AWD model w/Premium Package (Y6SG19 BK00), CVT transmission/ $16,498 MSRP for a 2009 Versa Hatchback 1.8 SL (B5RG59 AA00) manual transmission/ $31,798 MSRP for a 2009 Frontier PRO-4X King Cab (4KVG59 AA00), manual transmission/ $39,950 MSRP for a 2009 Maxima 3.5 SV w/Sport Package (U4SG19 SP00), CVT transmission/ $35,098 MSRP for a 2009 Titan King Cab SE 4x2 SWB (1KCG79 AA00), automatic transmission / $29,498 MSRP for a 2009 Altima Sedan 3.5 SE (T4SG59 AA00), manual transmission/ $40,698 MSRP for a 2009 Pathfinder SE 4x4 (5CSG79 AA00), automatic transmission. Destination and PDE charges ($1,500)/ ($1,400)/ ($1,500)/ ($1,550)/ ($1,400)/ ($1,500)/ ($1,325)/ ($1,440)/ ($1,425)/ ($1,450)/ ($1,400)/ ($1,500), license, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may sell for less. ‡1.9% purchase financing for up to 60 months available only on 2009 Altima Sedan and 2009 Rogue models. Finance Example for a 2009 Rogue 2.5 S FWD (W6RG19 AA00): $23,798 MSRP, financed at 1.9% APR for 60 months equals $354.89 per month with $5,000 down payment. Cost of borrowing is $995.47 for a total obligation of $26,293.47. Up to $84 PPSA, $1,500 freight and PDE, license, insurance registration and taxes are extra. Finance offers available on Nissan vehicles on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles may require factory order. Offers available for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers.

Nissan takes fans to top gear

BILL ROEBUCK
for Metro Canada

Nissan Maxima owners and driving enthusiasts got the chance for a sneak preview test drive of the all-new 2009 model in the Shift Into Gear Experience, a program held by Nissan Canada in early September. The 2009 Maxima, Nissan's flagship sedan, has new styling, a refined platform, a more powerful V6 engine and a redesigned interior.

The exclusive program allowed participants to book test drives online at specific times for the event held at Nissan's headquarters in Mississauga.

Also on hand for up-close viewing were the 2009 GT-R and 2009 Titan SE, along with several other Nissan models available for test driving: The 2009 Murano and Versa, the 2008 350Z Roadster, Altima Coupe and Sedan, and the Sentra SER SpecV.

The opportunity to drive so many cars at one time meant that many participants lined up like kids queuing for a roller-coaster, waiting for yet another ride.

The new Maxima Sport and Premium models on offer remained the highlight. A standard test-drive route took about 20 minutes to navigate, with a few participants begging for a little extra time.

Demetrios Vandekas of Toronto was one such enthusiast. Currently the owner of a 2004 Maxima, he found a "great deal of difference" in the new Maxima.

In particular, he was impressed by the comfort of the seats. "I spend a lot of time in my car, driving as much as 40,000 to 45,000 kilometres a year. The seat extension is great — other cars are not long enough for a guy my size." The trim Vandekas stands six feet tall.

"The steering is featherlight," he noted, then was impressed as he noticed the paddle shift controls under the steering wheel in the Sport model he was testing.

"One of my favourite features in my '04 is the heated steering wheel," he added, and was told the feature is now standard in the 2009 models.

"It's odd that with the CVT transmission you don't feel the shifts," Vandekas noted. "It's silky smooth, almost surreal. I've driven a lot of cars for trips of a quite reasonable length, and it's the 3.5-litre engine that convinced me to stay with Nissan when I got my current vehicle."

Drivers got the chance for a sneak preview test drive of several of Nissan's latest models in the Shift Into Gear Experience, a program held by Nissan Canada recently.

Reliability is another factor that kept him loyal to Nissan (his previous vehicle was a Nissan pickup truck on which he put more than 400,000 km). "I've not had a single issue with this car in 115,000 km," he says of his current Maxima.

"With this new model, Nissan has done all the right things," Vandekas added as he stepped out of the car with a smile on his face. "My search for a new car this time around won't be as vast."

Michael Cole, who is in charge of fleet acquisitions for the Ontario government, had a different perspective on the day, as he wasn't shopping for a personal car. "We have several Nissans listed with our fleet," he says.

"I found the new Maxima a nice car to drive. It's very comfortable. I like the design of the front end, and there appears to be increased visibility." He said he would check out the new model's fuel economy, improved with the 2009's CVT transmission.

Sean Ramsarran, who drove more than an hour to the event from his home in Waterloo, Ont., came specifically to test the new Maxima. He currently drives a 2005 model.

"It's been bullet-proof, very reliable, a great vehicle," he said.

He noted that he's never before bought the same model of a vehicle back to back, but the new Maxima may change that. "I commute to Mississauga daily with three others and they all like my car."

Jill Young, manager of product planning for Nissan Canada says, "The new Maxima is more responsive. We've improved the performance from 255 to 290 hp. Handling was improved with a shorter wheelbase. Also, the turning radius is a lot tighter."

Best of all, she added, "the CVT is a lot more fuel efficient. Even so, it's still a four-door sports car."

Maxima marries quality with value

JOE KNYCHA
for Metro Canada

I like to think that whoever came up with the name for Nissan's flagship sedan will be set for life, looked after and rewarded by the company until the end of his or her days.

That's because "Maxima" is among the few truly outstanding names to be assigned to a vehicle, any vehicle, in the past decade or two.

It doesn't confuse the buyer with arcane alphanumeric combinations, nor does it liken the car to some endangered animal species or distant celestial body that can't be seen without a telescope.

Instead, Maxima quite simply conveys a message of quality and value, stating eloquently and in a single made-up word that it is the best car that Nissan offers.

All-new styling, called "liquid motion" by its designers, is a welcome departure from the bulbous look of the previous-generation Maxima.

The new seventh-generation Maxima is offered as one well-equipped model, the Maxima 3.5 SV, starting at $37,900 with optional Sport ($39,950) and Premium ($41,050) packages to which can be added optional Tech ($42,400) and Navigation ($43,150) packages.

The wheelbase has been shortened almost two inches and widened 1.5 inches for better agility and stability. As a result, the turning radius has been cut by almost a metre.

The updated 3.5-litre VQ-series V6 engine delivers 35 more horses (290 @ 6,400 rpm) than before and 251 lb-ft of torque, up nine lb-ft, yet it burns cleaner and overall is three per cent more fuel efficient. We averaged 9.0 L/100 km on a several 100-kilometre test drives over highways and secondary roads without consciously striving for economical numbers.

2009 Nissan Maxima

Type: Sedan
Price: $37,900-$47,150
Engine: 3.5-litre VQ-series V6
HP: 290

Highlights

- Quality
- Excellent value
- More fuel efficient

Power is delivered to the front wheels via Nissan's Xtronic continuously variable; slip it into manual mode and you get sequential shifts through steering column-mounted paddle shifters.

Extensive use of aluminum components help reduce weight in the subframe-mounted strut/coil spring front and multi-link rear suspensions, emboldened by front and rear stabilizer bars.

Braking gets a similarly well thought-out treatment with standard 4-wheel disc brakes with 4-channel, 4-sensor, 4-wheel ABS, electronic brake force distribution and brake assist.

A vehicle-speed sensitive steering system, similar to that in the 350Z sports car, is quick and direct with no detectable on-centre vagueness or torque steer.

Standard are 18-inch aluminum-alloy wheels with P245/45R18 all-season tires; 19-inchers with split 5-spoke with aluminum alloy wheels and all-season P245/40R19 all-seasons are optional.

Audi's new traffic management system enables communication between cars and traffic lights.

Traffic keeps flowing with Audi Travolution

Frustrating, fuel-sapping stops at traffic lights could soon be the exception rather than the rule thanks to a new initiative being championed by Audi aimed at streamlining urban traffic flow and reducing CO2 emissions.

The experimental Travolution system, developed with Audi support by traffic management experts in the brand's German hometown of Ingolstadt, will not only improve synchronization and phasing of traffic light networks to reduce stopping times, but could also dramatically reduce the number of actual stops needed by creating a communications link between cars and the traffic light network.

Communications modules built into each traffic light are able to send messages to cars in the vicinity, alerting them to the time remaining until their next green phase.

The car's onboard system is then able to calculate the speed, which the driver must maintain in order to pass through the light during this green phase, and displays this via the Multi Media Interface display.

A network of 46 of the intelligent traffic lights has been installed in the centre of Ingolstadt, the software to which they are all linked optimizing their phasing to bring stopping times down to a minimum, reducing fuel consumption and pollution in the process.

Of the 46 light gantries, three have been upgraded to enable communication with the specially modified A5 and A6 Avant models.

BUILT Ford TOUGH

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Last of the titans

The FJ Cruiser is an homage to the Toyota FJ40 of the '50s and '60s based on the Tacoma pickup, with all that implies in refined ruggedness.

Two four-wheel drive systems are offered. With the six-speed manual, you get full-time 4WD with lockable centre and rear differentials. Choose the optional five-speed automatic, and it comes with part-time 4WD and a dual-range transfer case. They both feature vehicle stability control and traction control.

Either way, propulsion is provided by a smooth and torque-rich 4.0-litre V6 delivering 239 hp and 278 lb-ft of torque.

Neither transmission option provides stellar fuel economy. The FJ Cruiser with six-speed manual is rated at 14.5 L/100 km city and 11.2 L/100 km highway, while the automatic garners 13.5 L/100 km city and 10.2 L/100 km highway.

The FJ Cruiser's heavy-duty suspension system is ready to take a pounding on or off the road, featuring a front double wishbone design and a rear four-link design with lateral track bar, plus gas shock absorbers, coil springs and stabilizer bars for front and rear. Bilstein shock absorbers are available on Off-Road packages.

All 2008 Toyota FJ Cruisers are fitted with front ventilated disc brakes and rear disc brakes, plus a full suite of braking technologies, such as: Toyota's antilock braking system, electronic brake force distribution and brake assist.

Despite its off-road readiness, the FJ rides and handles with unexpected sportiness on pavement, although the steering feels lifeless.

But there are drawbacks. You sit very low in the vehicle, and visibility is poor in every direction. And the "suicide" rear doors can't be opened unless the fronts are opened first.

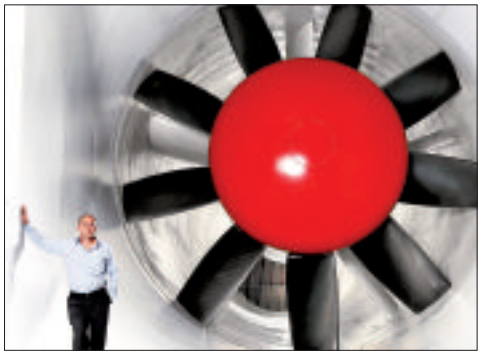
While the cabin itself seems hardy and well built, the materials used are lower in quality, however that does net an 'easy-to-clean' reputation. All models do come with dual front-, side- and side-curtain airbags.

The FJ Cruiser makes for an attractive off-road vehicle — one of the last, if the current trend to smaller, friendly crossovers continues.

The base model rings in at $30,725 and includes features like a six-speaker AM/FM/CD/MP3/WMA player, audio auxiliary input jack, air conditioning with cabin air filter and rear seat heater ducts, water repellent seat fabric, power locks and windows, 17-in aluminum wheels and flip-up rear hatch glass.

Stepping up to the $35,820 Off Road Package gains P265/75R16 BF Goodrich mud and snow tires with raised white lettering, mounted on 16-in alloy wheels, privacy glass, cruise control, a back-up sensor, roof rack, and power remote mirrors with exterior lamps.

Finally, the $36,280 "C" package adds a premium audio system with a six-disc in-dash CD changer, two extra speakers in the headliner and rear subwoofer, 115-volt power outlet, running boards, a Leather-wrapped steering wheel with steering wheel-mounted audio system controls and colour-keyed interior trim.


Tim Walker, aerodynamics expert at Volvo Cars, poses in Volvo's new wind tunnel that studies airflow and wheel rotation.

Volvo channels wind to lower fuel use

One of the world's most advanced wind tunnels is Volvo's new tool in the quest to lower fuel consumption and reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Volvo Car Corporation is the first car manufacturer to own a wind tunnel that fully simulates the airflow around and underneath the car's body, combined with wheel rotation on a flat road surface.

Volvo's 27-square metre, wind-generating chamber is an in-house facility designed with a moving road simulation system to match wind speed and the ability to rotate road wheels at the same velocity.

Volvo identified these features as key to understanding aerodynamic forces in real-life driving conditions. The upgraded tunnel has the ability to move air at speeds up to 155 mph via its eight-metre carbon fibre blades.

"We have succeeded in reducing air resistance in the new Volvo C30 by more than 10 per cent. This in turn leads to around three grams lower CO2 emissions per kilometre," said Tim Walker, aerodynamics expert at Volvo.

Translated into fuel consumption, this is a reduction by just more than 0.1 litres per 100 kilometres, according to the official EU Combined Cycle.

However, in a real driving situation, when speed and therefore air resistance are often higher, the actual fuel savings can be more than twice as high.

This means that a driver who covers 15,000 kilometres per year will save about 45 litres of fuel, almost a full tank in a Volvo C30.

Volvo's wind tunnel was first built in 1986, and now it is once again setting the benchmark in the car industry for its precise measurements of aerodynamics.

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Customers happier with dealer service

SURVEY Customer satisfaction with dealer service has increased slightly among vehicle owners, compared with 2007, in part due to a continuing increase in the proportion of maintenance-related service visits versus repair-related visits, according to the J.D. Power and Associates 2008 Service Usage and Retention Study (SURS).

The study, now in its 12th year, measures U.S. customer satisfaction of vehicle owners who visit a dealer service department for maintenance or repair work during the fourth or fifth years of ownership, which typically represents the period after the manufacturer's vehicle warranty expires.

Overall customer satisfaction is based on six factors (in order of importance): Service initiation; service adviser; service quality; user-friendly service; service delivery; and in-service experience.

Overall satisfaction with dealer service among original owners of four- and five-year-old vehicles averages 866 on a 1,000-point scale, up three points since 2007.

Among the 34 dealer brands included in the study since 2007, nearly seven in 10 (68 per cent) have improved since the previous year.

Contributing to this increase in overall satisfaction is a shift in the proportions of repair and maintenance service visits since 2007.

In 2008, 58 per cent of customers report visiting the dealer for maintenance work, while 42 per cent report visiting for repairs.

SE model shown, MSRP $15,770

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*Cash purchase price reflects discounts only available with cash purchase price offer and not available for purchase financing or lease offers. Freight $1125 included. Licence, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees, duties and taxes not included. Dealers are free to set individual prices. See newspaper or your participating dealer for details. [1]When equipped with a 5-speed manual transmission, estimated 2009 ratings, based on GM testing in accordance with approved transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. [2]Equivalent Aveo model tested. US government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). [3]Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details.

Honeymoon help

Couples who book their wedding with Fairmont can now opt for the Platinum Honeymoon program. It includes the services of a Platinum Concierge, who can help select venues, plan romantic dinners and book expeditions or tee and spa times; *fairmont.com/weddings*. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Couture house

Casa Casuarina, the opulent Miami Beach palazzo formerly owned by Gianni Versace, may be most famous for the designer's tragic murder on its front steps. But the fabulous interior and grounds also deserve to be known. The current owner says he will open Casa Casuarina to the public, because Versace's home was simply "too magical a place not to be shared." Visits will set you back a princely $50 US. METRO WORLD NEWS

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Sunning in a doomed paradise

TheTravelJunkie

Every year, thousands of tourists come to Maldives looking for fun, sun and a pina colada paradise. A tiny chain of islands in the Indian Ocean, just off the coast of Sri Lanka, Maldives is rich with high-end resorts that promise beach-side relaxation far from the realities of urban living.

One thing many tourists might not know is that the Maldives may be disappearing.

In this palm-tree fringed haven, with over 200 inhabited islands, all is not well. At one metre above sea level, these islands are at risk of vanishing altogether. It's highest natural point is 2.3 metres, making the Maldives one of the lowest countries in the world.

With global warming and rising sea levels, some expect the Maldives to disappear almost totally by the end of this century.

Touring the postcard-perfect islands, it's hard to imagine that, one day, this place may be obliterated from the map. I found myself at Soneva Gilli, an extravagant resort with villas that costs a whopping $1,800 US a night. Here, everything seems normal. Drawing honeymooners, scuba divers and infidels on adulterous weeklong retreats, this place is one of the most luxurious pads I've ever stayed in. But beyond the impeccable service and friendly staff, resorts like these are under threat of washing away.

JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

A resort sits atop stilts in the Maldives, an atoll nation which is comprised of 1,192 islets..

As the ice caps melt, many are looking to islands like the Maldives as an indicator of what's to come for the rest of the world. Maldivian president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom was reported as saying to the British media: "Whatever our fate tomorrow will be your fate the day after."

Under threat of extinction beneath the waves, it's not surprising that the Maldives was one of the first countries to sign up for Kyoto Protocol.

BBC reports that the country has implemented reforestation programs, is working to protect its natural coral barrier and is teaching environmental science in schools. A trip to Male, the capital city, shows huge cement breakwaters that protect the shores; but the fate of the country's 380,000 citizens remains uncertain. It has many people asking if the Maldives become a modern Atlantis?

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; juliadimon.com.

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Fey signs book deal
Comedienne Tina Fey has signed a book deal with Little, Brown Book Group. There is no official word on how much she will be pocketing for her work – pitched as more humour than memoir. **PEOPLE.COM**

Entertainment

Wonder woman
Actress Anne Hathaway is lined up to join Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter for director Tim Burton's adaptation of Alice In Wonderland. Hathaway is slated for the role of the White Queen. IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Fantasy hits, misses

Genre enjoys some success despite being treated like a cash cow

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

For years, children's fantasy was considered box office poison. Movies like Jim Henson's Dark Crystal and brilliant animator Ralph Bakshi's 1978 adaptation of The Lord Of The Rings failed in theaters despite the constant support of fantasy novels amongst an enthusiastic Elfish-speaking fan base.

That all changed in 2001 with the unparalleled commercial success of Peter Jackson's Lord Of The Rings and the first Harry Potter film. Now the genre dominates Hollywood and audiences are constantly being treated to films like The Chronicles Of Narnia, The Golden Compass, or this week's City Of Ember.

The studios now view the genre as a cash cow, but sadly it has not been as consistent as they hoped. There have been few monster hits outside of the Potter and Rings films, which has lead many to question what makes these movies work?

Bill Murray plays Mayor Cole in the film adaptation of the book City of Ember. It opens on Friday.

The answer is quite simple. The studios have predominantly treated these properties as large-scale ATM machines and put very little creative effort into developing them.

The Golden Compass — the film that killed New Line Studios — was handed off to American Pie helmer Chris Weitz, who struggled with the material along with his lost actors.

Similarly, the dwindling success of the Narnia franchise can be associated with the personality-less cinematic transcribing of Andrew Adamson. For any book to work on screen the original work has to be altered dramatically to fit the new medium. Sadly, this rarely happens.

Peter Jackson took huge liberties with his Lord Of The Rings adaptations and the films worked beautifully as a result. Likewise, much of the success of the Harry Potter franchise has to be attributed to brilliant screenwriter Steve Kloves' (The Fabulous Baker Boys) uncanny ability to condense and alter J.K. Rowling's texts for the screen.

This week's City Of Ember boasts a script from underrated writer Caroline Thompson (Edward Scissorhands) and direction from Gil Kenan who was responsible for the brilliant kiddie horror picture Monster House.

The team knows how to tell cinematic stories for children and should do a fine job translating French author Jeanne Duprau's apocalyptic kid-lit for the big screen.

Unfortunately, their movie comes after a string of fantasy flops and will be unceremoniously dumped into theatres. Hopefully audiences will discover it, because this is a tricky genre to get right and all successful attempts deserve recognition.

Guitar Hero IV, Bond among new Sony games

RICK MCGINNIS
Metro Canada

The garden furniture showroom in Toronto's design district has been transformed into a dim, moody nightclub to showcase the holiday offerings for Sony's PS3 and PSP game boxes, but it's a bit of a stag night, with scarcely more than three or four females in sight.

The raised platforms on either end of the room where Rock Band 2 and Guitar Hero IV are being demoed have been colonized by enthusiastic young men fervently miming to Bon Jovi and Smashing Pumpkins tunes, while the white couches that fill the rest of the space are packed with members of the gaming press trying out new titles like Sony's Resistance 2, Ubisoft's Prince Of Persia and Electronic Arts' Mirrors Edge.

"You can play the game without shooting a single person," says Aaron Krause of EA, one of the biggest names in gaming and a third-party game developer for the PlayStation platform. He's showing off Mirrors Edge, patiently explaining terms like "first person shooter" for me, and enthusiastically describing the game, which is based on the urban sport of parkour, or "free running." In a room filled with the sounds of gunfire and agonized screams, it's unusual to find a game where you're actually rewarded for not blowing holes in folks.

Garrett Young, a producer for Treyarch, was part of the team that developed 007: Quantum Of Solace for Activision, and he's eagerly taking me through a level of the game where Daniel Craig's Bond is clambering over the top of a high-speed train on its way to Montenegro to foil some smugglers and get his hands on an invite to a high-stakes poker game. "We wanted to make a great game first then wrap it in the world of Bond," he tells me. The team worked on the game as the new Bond film was being made, working from a shooting script, photos and four visits to the set, and they're expecting it to be a big seller this Christmas.

You can fill the shoes of actor Daniel Craig's James Bond character in 007: Quantum Of Solace for Activision.

"We wanted to make a great game first then wrap it in the world of Bond."
Garrett Young, a producer for 007: Quantum Of Solace

My gaming skills are sorely out of place at the event, however; sitting alone on a couch in front of a game called Little Big Planet, I manage to press a combination of buttons that turns the screen black and makes the controller go dead. I quietly put it down and slip away quietly.

Short list for Giller Prize unveiled

BOOKS The prestigious Scotiabank Giller Prize announced its short list of finalists yesterday, after reviewing 95 books submitted from across the country, Reuters reports.

The top prize of $50,000 goes to the author of the best Canadian novel or short-story collection published in English.

The finalists for the award are: Joseph Boyden for his novel Through Black Spruce; Anthony De Sa for his collection of short stories Barnacle Love; Marina Endicott for her novel Good to a Fault; Rawi Hage for his novel Cockroach; Mary Swan for her novel The Boys in the Trees. The winner will be announced Nov. 11.

Lopez talks about her breakdown

Lopez

PEOPLE Jennifer Lopez has revealed that she suffered "a nervous breakdown" six years ago, the Daily Mail reports. The actress and singer blamed overwork and stress for her condition. She refused medication, instead resting until she felt better, she said.

"I was like, I don't want to move," Lopez told website The Daily Beast. "I don't want to talk. I don't want to do anything. I had a nervous breakdown ... There were no signs leading up to it."

Knowles opens up about marriage

Knowles

PEOPLE Beyoncé Knowles has broken her silence on her marriage, female-first.co.uk reports.

The singer has previously refused to discuss her relationship with rapper Jay-Z, whom she married in secret in April. "What Jay and I have is real. It's not about the interviews or getting the right photo op. It's real."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Big plans for Kate Nash

Kate Nash plans to release an album next summer — if she can tour first. The singer says the only way to force herself to complete writing new songs is to play some live shows in order to give herself a deadline. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Book about Muhammad's bride rushed to U.S. stores

BOOKS A controversial novel about the Muhammad's child bride was rushed to stores Stateside Monday, nine days ahead of schedule, after the office of the book's British publisher was attacked.

Beaufort Books picked up The Jewel of Medina, by journalist Sherry Jones, after it was dropped by Random House in May because of concerns it could incite violence.

Beaufort said it sent out an initial print run of 40,000 copies.

The novel traces the life of the child bride, Aisha, from her engagement to Muhammad at age 6, until the prophet's death.

The headquarters of the book's British publisher, Gibson Square Books, was set on fire Sept. 27. No one was injured, but the publication date was suspended. British police arrested three men on suspicion of terrorism.

Beaufort's president, Eric Kampmann, said neither he nor Jones, 37, had received threats but both wanted to get the book out as soon as possible. REUTERS

Entertainment in **brief**

COUPLE Reese Witherspoon and Jake Gyllenhaal are reportedly househunting in London, imdb.com reports. The Rendition co-stars, who have been dating since last year, are said to have been viewing a number of properties, both apartments and townhouses, in the upmarket area of Mayfair.

CRIME Late stuntman Evel Knievel was probed by the FBI over a series of violent assaults, imdb.com reports. The biker was quizzed over his links to a number of attacks in the U.S., allegations he denied at the time. Knievel died last November at age 69.

HELP Tom Cruise came to the rescue of a New York paparazzo recently when he saw the snapper take a tumble and rushed to his side, imdb.com reports. Cruise spotted the photographer falling as he snapped away at the superstar, and he stepped in to help the man to his feet, reports TMZ.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

School's in **At the premiere**

DAVE HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES

From left, Ashley Tisdale, Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens attend the U.K. premiere of High School Musical 3 at the Empire cinema in Leicester Square in London yesterday.

Berry so very sexy

Esquire magazine deems actress Sexiest Woman Alive

Halle Berry may be a mommy of a certain age, but the men's magazine Esquire says the Oscar-winning actress is still the Sexiest Woman Alive.

In an article posted yesterday on the magazine's website (www.esquire.com), Berry poses in a parody of a 2000 cover photograph of former U.S. President Bill Clinton, and writes about what she thinks of winning Esquire's annual honour for the first time.

"Well, I don't know exactly what it means, but being 42 and having just had a baby, I think I'll take it," Berry wrote.

Esquire said it dressed Berry in a racier version of Clinton's suit jacket and blue tie to recreate an iconic cover for its 75th anniversary celebration.

"Being 42 and having just had a baby, I think I'll take it."
Halle Berry, on being named Esquire 's Sexiest Woman Alive

Berry starred last year in the movie Things We Lost in the Fire and is due to star next year in Frankie and Alice, a film about a woman with multiple personality disorder.

In the Esquire article, Berry describes things she finds sexy. It turns out that spaghetti and wine are major turn-ons.

"Sexy is not about wearing sexy clothes or shaking your booty until you damn near get hip dysplasia; it's about knowing that sexiness is a state of mind — a comfortable state of being," she said.

Berry won an Oscar in 2002 for her role in the movie Monster's Ball. She played the wife of an executed murderer who becomes romantically involved with a guard at the prison where her husband had been held.

With the Oscar win, Berry became the first black woman to take home an Academy Award for Best Actress.

Berry gave birth in March to a baby girl. The father is Berry's partner, French-Canadian model Gabriel Aubry, 32.

Berry has been married and divorced twice. Her first marriage was to baseball player David Justice. She adopted the daughter of her second husband, musician Eric Benet, but the couple broke up in 2003. REUTERS

FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

Sexy is a state of mind, actress Halle Berry says.

Changes already on the little screen

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

GOING AWAY, COMING SOON: The new TV season is technically barely two weeks old and we're already counting the dead and expecting babies.

Actress Minnie Driver is using her MySpace page to introduce her new baby to the world — she's been a lot less open about the identity of the father — which means she'll have plenty to occupy her now that FX has cancelled The Riches, her actually-quite-good show with comedian Eddie Izzard. The show's strike-truncated second season ended last April, and the woefully-undersung series has been on critical status since then.

TBS has ordered a third season of My Boys, a show I was certain hadn't survived its first, and The Mentalist was given an order of six new episodes by CBS, filling out its first season to a full 22 shows, and almost ensuring that the show — one of the few titles even resembling a hit on the so-called Tiffany network — will be back again next year.

HBO has given a green light to season six of Entourage, apparently pleased with the current season's surge in ratings, Jeremy Piven's third Emmy in a row, and the critical consensus that the show's shaped up after what was considered to be a flabby fourth season. It also needs to be pointed out that, besides the odd miniseries, HBO doesn't have a lot else going on right now.

FX has renewed Sons Of Anarchy, a series about an outlaw biker gang that I had never heard of until now, but which pulled in a cumulative audience of 5.4 million total viewers per episode since its debut early last month, totaled up from multiple weekly broadcasts, according to a TV Week story.

"I think the underlying themes of family and the common man's fight against oppressive corporate greed has grabbed people's attention," said Kurt Sutter, husband of Sons Of Anarchy star Katey Sagal and an executive producer of the show.

Now there's an idea — solve the current fiscal meltdown by putting the economy in the hands of the Hells Angels. Those Hollywood people — always ready with a creative solution.

HBO's Manhunt, a miniseries based on the hunt for Abraham Lincoln's assassin announced last month, will apparently be joined by The Booths, a Showtime series executive produced by Kevin Bacon, about the "dysfunctional relationship" between Lincoln's killer and his brother, according to a Variety story.

If this trend has wings, look for quality cable series featuring the backstories of Lee Harvey Oswald, Sirhan Sirhan, John Hinckley Jr., Lynette (Squeaky) Fromme, Arthur Bremer, Charles Guiteau and Leon Czolgosz. At least one will be a comedy, two will star Harvey Keitel, and one will be a musical that will unexpectedly include a hit song that will feature in future montage sequences taking a nostalgic look back at the events of the last half of the first decade of the 21st century, much the way Disco Inferno is the soundtrack for looks back at the Carter era. Don't ask me how I know – I just do.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Baby for Idol former contestant

Former American Idol contestant Paris Bennett welcomed a baby girl, named Egypt Bennett, at 3:36 p.m. Monday, her rep said. The baby's father chooses to be out of the public eye. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Actresses have floor in Hill series

CASTING Meet The Washingtoniennes.

Walsh

Rachael Taylor, Amanda Walsh and Bitsie Tulloch have landed the female leads in HBO's comedy pilot from Sarah Jessica Parker.

Based on the book by Jessica Cutler about the sexploits of a low-level female congressional staffer with powerful men on Capitol Hill, Washingtonienne revolves around the lives of three smart, sophisticated 28-year-old girls working on the Hill.

Entourage back for sixth season

RENEWED HBO has renewed its Hollywood-hipster comedy Entourage, a month after the Emmy-winning series began its fifth season.

Production on the sixth season will begin in early 2009, with launch slated for the summer. The current season got off to a good start with co-star Jeremy Piven last month winning his third consecutive Emmy, for playing a slimy talent agent.

Entourage joins HBO's slate of 2009 series that includes the returning shows Big Love, Flight of the Conchords, In Treatment and True Blood as well as new drama The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency.

Mamma Mia! on top overseas

BOX OFFICE Forget the comic-book movies, it's time to hail a long-neglected fan base — the mature women who kept Mamma Mia! on top in the international market for the fifth week in a row. One woman in Germany is reported to have seen the ABBA-inspired musical romance more than 70 times.

Thanks to a top-of-the-market bow in Italy ($2.6 million US) and strong holdovers, Mamma Mia! pulled in $13.6 million over the weekend from 44 territories, lifting its foreign gross to $377 million. After 13 weeks in Britain, it ranks at No. 4 and has reached a total of $123.2 million. REUTERS

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#916-MV1

Stone Cold fights it out

Wrestling superstar forced into underground in new film Damage

HollywoodNorth

Andrea Woo
andrea.woo@metronews.ca

Wrestling fans of the '90s may want to keep an eye out for **Stone Cold Steve Austin** next week when the Ringmaster will be in town to film **Damage**. In the film, produced by Vancouver-based Insight Film Studios, Austin will play John Brickner, "a recently parolled ex-con forced into the illegal world of underground fights." Gemini winner and Emmy nominated **Jeff King** (**Rustlan**, **Kill Switch**) will direct the project, which will shoot in the city until mid-November.

Henry Winkler (**Happy Days**) and **Brooke Burns** (**Baywatch**) wrapped filming in Vancouver Friday for **The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year**, a Christmas flick set to air on the Hallmark Channel in December. According to the Hollywood Reporter, Burns plays Jennifer, a single mother who is frazzled by the holidays, and the Fonz plays her Uncle Ralph, who shows up with some young, handsome guy who "causes Jennifer to question her feelings for her stable yet boring boyfriend." Way to crush the chump's soul at Christmas time, Uncle Ralph.

The Globe and Mail reports that the **Vancouver International Film Festival**, which concludes Friday, has suffered a number of notable no-shows due to visa problems. Festival officials told the paper that at least three directors — **Gao Wendong** (**Sweet Food City**), **Yu Guangyi** (**Survival Song**) and **Charliebebs Gohetia** (**The "Thank You" Girls**) were denied visitors' visas, despite the festival having written letters and worked with embassy officials. Visas were also denied to invited directors in 2006 and 2007.

Stone Cold Steve Austin, left, and Brooke Burns, far left, have been in town recently. GETTY IMAGE

Austin will play John Brickner, "a recently parolled ex-con forced into the illegal world of underground fights."

Andrea Woo is a Vancouver-based news and entertainment reporter.

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 10/8/08	251	308	3 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	CBC News: the fifth estate (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 JOY	E! News (N)	The Insider	Knight Rider (N) (CC)		The Biggest Loser: Families		True Hollywood Story (CC)		News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Mandarin News		Cantonese News (N)		Punjabi News (In Punjabi N)		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	So You Think You Can Dance Canada The top 20. (N) (CC)				CSI: NY "Turbulence" (N)		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	Scrubs (CC)	According-Jim	The Practice (CC)		Third Watch "Impulse" (CC)		The Daily	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones "The He in the She"		NCIS "Capitol Offense" (N)		Crime Stories (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Robson Arms	TMZ (N) (CC)	America's Next Top Model (N)		Private Practice (N) (CC)		(:01) Dirty Sexy Money (N)		News (CC)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Secret Life of American Teen		Hell's Kitchen (CC)		Lipstick Jungle (N) (CC)		EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	America's Next Top Model (N)		90210 "Hollywood Forever"		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N) (CC)		CSI: NY "Turbulence" (N)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Knight Rider (N) (CC)		The Biggest Loser: Families		Lipstick Jungle (N) (CC)		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Grocery	What You Eat	Supersize vs. Superskinny (N)		Gok's Fashion Fix (N)		Style by Jury
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Pushing Daisies (N) (CC)		Private Practice (N) (CC)		(:01) Dirty Sexy Money (N)		News (N)
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	The Mouse That Roared ★★★ (1959, Comedy) Peter Sellers.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	Wings-Canada	Secrets of the Dead		Latinos '08 (N) (CC)		Los Lonely Boys: Cottonfields		
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones "The He in the She"		(:01) 'Til Death	'Til Death (N)	News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	48 PBS	Latinos '08 (N) (CC)		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Secrets of the Dead	
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	The Insider	Entertainment	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	America's Next Top Model (N)		90210 "Hollywood Forever"		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	37 WPX	CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	According-Jim	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		ET Canada	Entertainment	Kitchen Nightmares (CC)	
news	502	390	29 NW	Canada Votes: The X Challenge (CC)			National	CBC News: The National		CBC News		Votes
	500	500	40 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	MLB Baseball: American League Division Series Game 5 -- Red Sox at Angels						Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Off the Record	Boxing Yuriokis Gamboa vs. Marcos Ramirez. (CC)				SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Ed's Up (CC)	Adventures	Word Travels
	410	403	54 SCR	Score Tonight		Hardcore Hockey Talk		Final Score	Final Score	Sports Rage		Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks	Pinks Out	Wrecked
	416	409	144 GLF	Footballers	Legends	Gol TV News		Art of Football	Art of Football	Paid Program	Kings Club	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Imp.	Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	George	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	The Critic (N)	Chicken	Lucy Devil
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Meerkat	Undersea	Chinese School (CC)		The Four Seasons (N) (CC)		In Performance-Nathaniel Dett		Montreal Jazz
	575	583	20 CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	The Ultimate Coyote Ugly Search			Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba "Pilot"	Hope & Faith
	570	580	24 MM	MTV's Top Pop Group		disBand	Technical Diff.	Punk'd (CC)	MTV's Top Pop	Group	Born to Be	Spotlight
	600	564	26 H&G	Million Dollar Listing (CC)		Holmes on Homes (CC)		Mansions	The Stagers	Property	Unsellable	$1M Listing
	615	520	61 A&E	Jacked: Theft	Jacked: Theft	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Jacked: Theft
	628	584	62 SPKE	The Ultimate Fighter (N)		MANswers (N)	MANswers	CSI: NY (CC)		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Bullrun (CC)
	521	560	63 TLC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate
	616	522	69 SHO	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Billable Hours	Billable Hours	Durham County (CC)		The Riches (CC)		House (CC)
	620	523	70 BVO	Arts & Minds	The Achievers	Law & Order "Submission"		Without a Trace "Run" (CC)		Beautiful People ★★★ (1999, Drama) (CC)		
	601	562	71 SLC	Real Housewives of NYC		Last 10	Bulging Brides	Work Out (CC)		Real Housewives of NYC		Trading Sp
	520	505	72 DIS	Mayday (CC)		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters (CC)		Cash Cab	Factory Made	Mayday (CC)
	522	506	74 HIS	NCIS "Minimum Security"		Digging for the Truth (CC)		The Lost Gospel of Judas		NCIS "Minimum Security"		Crime Stories
	627	528	75 SPC	Ghost Hunters International		Stargate SG-1 "Off the Grid"		Lost "Deus Ex Machina"		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Star Trek
	294	650	77 TBS	MLB Baseball: American League Division Series Game 5 -- Red Sox at Angels						Inside MLB	To Be Announced	
	619	525	78 TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210 (CC)		Reality	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	Family Guy
	603	561	82 FN	Dinner	Dinner	Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Challenge Thanksgiving feast.		Iron Chef America (CC)		Dinner
	626	547	87 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	320	621	80 CEN	Elizabeth: The Golden Age ★★ (2007) Cate Blanchett.				True Blood "Sparks Fly Out"		Dexter "Finding Freebo"		Waist Deep
	581	566	101 MTV	Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live	After	Man and Wife	Exiled (CC)	Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Enigma "Nightmare" (CC)		Hope Island (CC)		Summer Wine	No Place Like	Darling Buds of May (CC)		Paid Program
	-	-	105 MUL	Matchmaker	Daughters	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Hola Que Tal		Patrol World

critics'corner

Private Practice

For medicinal purposes only — Addison and Sam (Kate Walsh, Taye Diggs) stage a coup in order to bring the practice out of bankruptcy, while Violet's (Amy Brenneman) friendship with Cooper (Paul Adelstein) is on the brink of extinction. Then, a couple fights for an unethical treatment at Oceanside Wellness. Watch this new episode and call us in the morning. 9 PM on ABC

Criminal Minds

In this new episode, "Minimal Loss," shades of the recent polygamist raids in Texas are revisited when Reid and Prentiss (Matthew Gray Gubler, Paget Brewster) are taken hostage during a federal raid while working under cover to investigate possible child abuse at an underground cult. Luke Perry guest stars as the cult's charismatic leader. Joe Mantegna stars as David Rossi. 9 PM on CBS

Harrelson set for superhero role

Woody Harrelson is set to become the latest actor to play a superhero on the big screen. He'll portray the delusional Defendor in a new movie that starts shooting in Toronto next month. IMDB.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Kidman talks motherhood

FAMILY Becoming a mother at a later age has been rewarding for Nicole Kidman, but it's also bittersweet, People.com reports.

"At 41, it's a more painful love," she tells November's Elle about the July birth of her daughter, Sunday Rose. "It's almost like my heart is stretching; I'm feeling all these muscles stretch with emotion. It's a beautiful love but there's a lot of fear and pain for her life, and for Bella's and Connor's life."

One person who helps Kidman deal with the pain is husband Keith Urban, with whom Kidman says she shares a "profound" love.

"I didn't foresee it," she says, "that you can meet someone who you have a deep and more profound love with. You move into a stage where you're able to be a more fuller person in your relationship."

But former husband Tom Cruise shouldn't take Kidman's comment as a slight. "I don't want to take away from 11 years with that man that were really important," she says. "Really, for our kids — they were amidst a lot of love. It wasn't bad."

Kidman tells Elle that she doesn't regret marrying Cruise when she was only 22 years old.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Ramsay targets Prince Charles

PEOPLE Chef Gordon Ramsay has a new target for his famous temper: Prince Charles, People.com reports.

The Hell's Kitchen star, who has notched up 12 Michelin stars and a string of successful restaurants, has condemned some of the prince's line of organic produce for being "boring" and "processed."

The Prince, 59, established Duchy Originals to market a wide range of organic foods – from oatmeal crackers to meat.

But Ramsay, 41, tells the magazine of the U.K.'s Daily Telegraph, "I am upset with him. When I looked at his Duchy food I was gobsmacked, amazed, dumbfounded at what I discovered."

Just what exactly is giving Ramsay these new Kitchen Nightmares?

"The number of sodiums, and the sugar content, is embarrassing," he said, also knocking the line's high prices. "It's boring, processed food. I don't think the Royals should be producing food like that, even if the profits do go to charity."

Duchy Originals' boss Andrew Baker fought back on Monday, saying they were "proud" of "selling top quality, delicious products made from wholesome, natural ingredients, grown in a sustainable way."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Duchovny out of rehab

ON THE MEND David Duchovny has checked out of a rehabilitation centre for sex addiction, according to his lawyer, Stanton "Larry" Stein, People.com reports.

"David is out of rehab and about to start a new movie," Stein says. "He successfully completed his treatment."

The actor, 48, voluntarily entered a facility to treat the addiction in August.

Duchovny has been married to actress Téa Leoni since 1997. They have two children, daughter Madelaine West, 9, and son Kyd, 6.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity briefs

Driver posts baby photo

PEOPLE Actress Minnie Driver has snubbed the opportunity to show off her newborn son Henry in a celebrity magazine spread. She's posted her own photograph online, imdb.com reports.

Driver, 38, gave birth to little Henry Story Driver in Los Angeles last month. Instead of selling pictures of the infant to the highest bidder, she's chosen to share them with fans and friends on her MySpace.com page free of charge.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

Woody Allen once said that life doesn't imitate art, it imitates bad television. Turns out he was right.

David Duchovny, who stars in Californication as a sex addict, has checked out of sex rehab. Ladies, Internet providers, knotholes, and still-warm cherry pies beware. He's now ready to start a new movie. One can hope it's not of the homemade sex tape variety.

I've heard that the second hardest thing about sex addiction is admitting that you have a problem. The third hardest thing about it must be realizing that this is what it takes these days for a husband and father of two to promote his career, because the talk show circuit is so 20th Century. They tried to make him hype his TV show, he said "Yes, yes, yes."

The questions that dominated water coolers and Internet forums when Duchovny went in for treatment in August are now bound to be revisited. Allow me to recap. Can a predilection for a biological imperative really be considered an addiction? If sex addiction means being unable to concentrate on anything but sex all day, shouldn't most 16-year-old boys be in rehab?

NEWDESK@METRONEWS.CA

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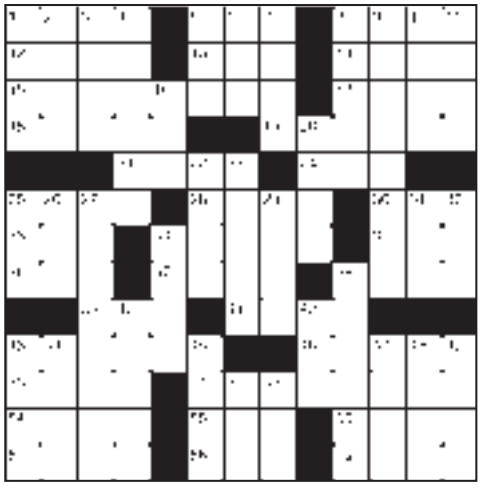


Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		2		1		4	3	
9	4		2				5	
		6			7			
		9		5				
3		4				8		1
				8		9		
			1			6		
	2				8		9	3
	8	5		6		7		

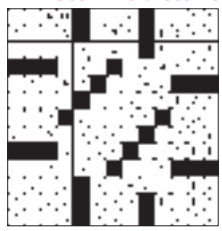
Crossword across

1 Cows' chaws
5 Scenery chewer
8 Cinematographer Nykvist
12 Sandwich cookie
13 Longoria or Mendes
14 Out of kilter
15 Music lover's buy
17 Egyptian bird
18 Bizarre
19 Solvent derived from petroleum
21 Government overthrow
24 Exploit
25 Lotion additive
28 Colorado ski mecca
30 Pair
33 Moo goo gai pan pan
34 Tubular pasta
35 Once around the track
36 And so on (Abbr.)
37 Secular
38 Crooked
39 Eventual aves
41 Burn somewhat
43 Chefs' garb
46 It becomes igneous rock
50 Parliament title
51 Swanson product
54 Drench
55 Rowing need
56 It can be raw
57 Earthenware pot
58 Thickness
59 Mop

Crossword down

1 Couturier Chanel
2 Language of Pakistan
3 Credit card result
4 Origin
5 Coop dweller
6 "Hail, Caesar!"
7 "You Bet Your Life" host
8 "Red — in the Sunset"
9 Rabbit's cousin?
10 Ms. Brockovich
11 Wall St. initials
16 Old Olds
20 Christmas
22 Eye layer
23 "War of the Worlds" aftermath
25 Idolater's emotion
26 Parcel of land
27 Gunfight site
29 Small measure
31 Pale
32 Make up your mind
34 Blueprint
38 Cattle markings
40 Stinger ingredient
42 Parisian pal
43 As well
44 Combine resources
45 Cease
47 Chew persistently
48 Transcending (Pref.)
49 Bedouin
52 Actor Kilmer
53 Parched

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



8	5	1	4	9	2	3	6	7
7	4	6	3	1	8	5	9	2
3	9	2	7	6	5	4	1	8
2	3	7	9	4	6	8	5	1
9	6	4	8	5	1	2	7	3
1	8	5	2	7	3	9	4	6
4	7	8	1	2	9	6	3	5
6	2	9	5	3	7	1	8	4
5	1	3	6	8	4	7	2	9

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Recipe of the day

Linguine with tomato sauce

INGREDIENTS:
1.5 lb (750 g) Italian tomatoes, seeded and chopped
2/3 cup (150 mL) chopped fresh basil
1/4 cup (50 mL) extra virgin olive oil
1/4 cup (50 mL) chopped Italian parsley
2 tbsp (25 mL) chopped fresh mint
2 tsp (10 mL) grated orange rind
3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
pepper to taste
13 oz (370 g) linguine
1/4 cup (50 mL) freshly grated Parmesan cheese to serve

METHOD:
1. Mix the tomatoes, basil, oil, parsley, mint, orange rind, garlic and pepper in a bowl. Let the mixture stand for 2 1/2 hours at room temperature.
2. Cook the pasta according to the package directions. Drain the pasta well and place in a large bowl. Top with the sauce, sprinkle with the Parmesan cheese and serve.

PER SERVING
424 calories, 12 g protein, 17 g total fat, 3 g saturated fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 55 g total carbohydrate, 3 g sugars, 6 g fibre, 94 mg sodium

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!
Readers Digest

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
An emotional burden needs closure. Keep your feet planted on the ground. Friends are waiting for promises to be kept.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Someone can't get you out of his mind. No one can concentrate because confusion reigns. Focus on taking care of some details immediately.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A woman's sense of right and wrong is offensive. A man feels forced to take on the world. You're able to fulfill plans, and bring things to conclusion.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Somebody's hostility will make you self-conscious. There's no need to feel sorry for yourself. You must reply to a message from a selfish person.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Strengthen your emotional connection with your family. You can thwart criticism by taking action. Declarations of love will be well received.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A disclosure causes dizzy anticipation. Simple pleasures will become complicated. You can create a dramatic event.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A man faces a tedious ordeal. Someone wants to take a break. Others are living in denial. You can accomplish more by concentrating.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Blessings will come in odd little packages. Scolding will cause misery. You'll help to stabilize a situation.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Deception can cause suffering. A con artist wants to tell someone to get lost. Someone's sad lot in life doesn't interest you.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Frustration results from interference. Someone tells you something you don't want to know. A frightened person discourages a grumbler.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Others will go along with your plans without a fuss. You are calm about facing a difficulty alone. Someone begs your permission to do something.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A delightful person complicates a wonderful situation. Nobody knows how mischievous you've been. Don't be too friendly with an emotional vampire.

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TRÉ ARMSTRONG
JUDGE

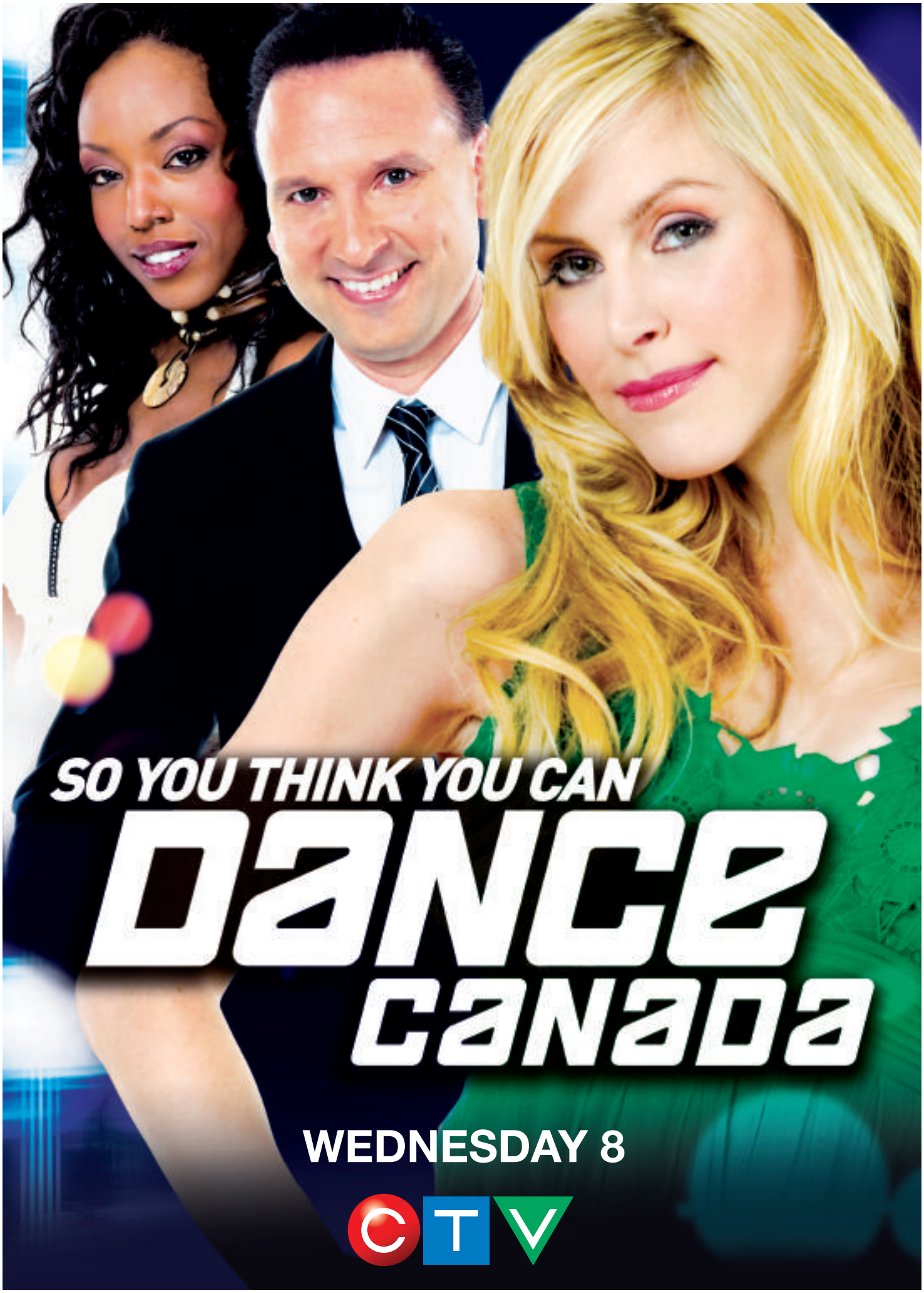
Armstrong's technical training and flare for urban street dance shaped her into a multi-talented dancer, actress and choreographer. She has appeared on *Top O the Pops, Canadian Idol, BET's 106 & Park and The MTV Video Music Awards.* Celebrities Armstrong has worked with include: Rhianna, Sean "Diddy" Combs, Kreesha Turner, Jay-Z, Hillary Duff and Missy Elliot. Armstrong's feature role in *Breakin' In: The Making of a Hip Hop Dancer* lead to her acting debut as Candy in *Save the Last Dance 2*. She also plays Michelle, lead actress in the MTV/Paramount dance feature, and Sundance Film Festival hit, *How She Move.*

JEAN MARC GENEREUX
JUDGE

Quebec's Jean Marc Genereux began dancing at age 10 with his partner, and now wife, France Mousseau. In the early 1980's they began dancing the International style of ballroom. Together, as National Champions, they have won multiple dance competitions and events - performing as dance artists all over the world from Asia and Australia to Europe and America. Genereux and Mousseau retired from the competitive scene in 1998, however, the two still travel all over the world to perform, as well as judge and choreograph for elite competitors. Genereux performed in the films *Dance With Me* and *Shall We Dance*, with Jennifer Lopez and Richard Gere. In 2006, Genereux joined the cast of the American version of *So You Think You Can Dance* as a choreographer.

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE CANADA

CTV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DANCE
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